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WIN A 21" TV! TEXT 2910

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Energy department battlecry: 'EC way of life'

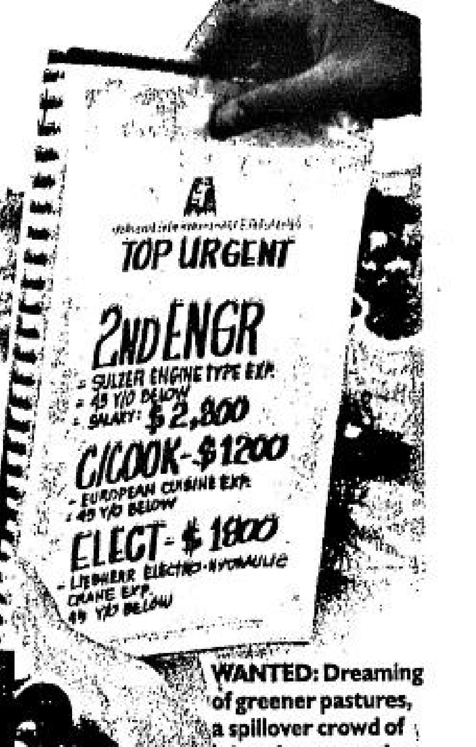
MAS TIPID KUNG WALANG CORRUPTION!

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

- TURN off air-conditioning in government offices at 4 every afternoon.
- "Don't be careless, go car-less."

ENERGY/ A9

Meralco to increase rates by 17.37 ¢/kWh



WANTED: Dreaming of greener pastures, a spillover crowd of jobseekers near the Rizal Park reads from the list of available jobs overseas. REUTERS

Power hike to start next month

By Abigail L. Ho

STARTING next month, customers of Manila Electric Co. will pay an additional 17.37 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in their monthly electricity bills.

The increase is equivalent to P34.74 for households using 200 kWh a month. Households consuming 500 kWh a month will have to pay an additional P86.85.

The increase is the second in three months.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) approved in June Meralco's second generation rate adjustment mechanism (GRAM) petition, which resulted in an additional pass-on charge of 13.27 centavos per kWh for the Lopez-led firm's customers.

In an Aug. 20 order, the ERC approved the company's third GRAM application, resulting in a 17.37-centavo-per-kWh increase in generation charges.

But ERC chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. was quick to explain that the resulting rate hike from the recently approved GRAM filing would not give Meralco any additional income.

As with the first two approved GRAM applications, the added charges will be remitted to Na-

MERALCO / A8

SIGN of the (hard) times: 4,000 applicants pack the job fair organized and hosted by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines at the Philippine Trade and Training Center in Pasay City. Due to the heavy turnout, the fair had to stay open later than scheduled yesterday, the last day of the two-day fair. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Thousands of youths jampack job fair

By Blanche S. Rivera

ROLAND Javier, 24, was trying his best to avoid feeling disheartened. A business administration graduate of the City College of Manila, he had traveled with a classmate from his hometown in Bulacan to catch the job fair in Pasay City. But his enthusiasm flagged when he observed the major companies showing a preference for graduates of the bigger universities.

"It's like being judged even before you apply," Javier told the INQUIRER as he and his friend Rogelio Villa awaited their turn to be interviewed by a telecommunications firm. "What about those of us who are not graduates of Ateneo or De La Salle or UP (University of the Philippines)?"

THOUSANDS/ A5

GMA: Gov't can pay off its ₱4-trillion debt

TO CALM the markets, Malacañang assured creditors yesterday that the country would not fall into an Argentina-type crisis and default on its loans.

Stocks tumbled more than 2 percent to a one-month low and the peso eased 0.3 percent against the dollar to 55.935, its lowest since early August, a day after President Macapagal-Arroyo acknowledged that the country was in the midst of a "fiscal crisis." *(See story in Business, Page B1.)*

"Telling the people the truth was intended to instill greater responsibility for these obligations, not to signal default which will never happen," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

The total debt of the national government, excluding the obligations of government-owned and controlled corporations, rose to P4.13 trillion in February from P3.36 trillion at the end of 2003.

The budget deficit, on the other hand, reached P199.9 billion in 2003. It stood at P80.1 billion as of June and was forecast to hit about P200 billion this year, mainly because of falling revenues and poor tax collection.

The President's remark came after a group of faculty members at the University of the Philippines School of Economics warned that the country could face a financial

GMA/ A8

Fiscal crisis differs from economic crisis

By D. J. Yap
PDI Research

A "FISCAL crisis" is different from a full-blown "economic crisis." A fiscal crisis that gets out of hand, however, may lead to a much bigger crisis engulfing the entire economy and society.

When a government spends more than it earns through the years, it piles up debt that may become unmanageable at a certain point, sparking a fiscal crisis.

"It (fiscal crisis) means the government can't pay its debts and, at

FISCAL/ A8

9 senators agree to reduce pork barrel by 50%

By Christine O. Avendaño and PDI Visayas Bureau

NINE administration senators yesterday declared their agreement to forego half of their graft-ridden pork barrel funds for the next budget year as their way of helping the government deal with the fiscal crisis.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Sen. Ralph Recto filed Senate Resolution No. 57 calling for "the reduction by 50 percent of the senators' Priority Development Assistance Fund for 2005 in favor of the 10-point agenda of the national government."

According to Pangilinan, the proposed 50-percent cut in the PDAF will "drastically improve our fiscal standing instead of coming out with new tax schemes."

"It frees the budget of the pressure to raise the [full] amount as there are other programs that need funding," he said. Senators receive P200 million each in pork barrel yearly.

Pangilinan said the resolution was based on a recommendation made by economists from the University of the Philippines that the PDAF allocation be reduced to help avert a fiscal crisis. *(See related story in Metro, Page A17).*

"We will try to convince the other senators to support our resolution," he told reporters.

The others who signed the resolution were Senate President Franklin Drilon, President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier and Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Pia

9 SENATORS/ A4

Camacho: The man who said it first

By Clarissa S. Batino

TAKE IT from the man who may have been the first to sound the alarm: The country's fiscal crisis is like a festering wound that could lead to gangrene.

In an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, former Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said, however, that the Philippines was not yet in a financial crisis similar to the one that engulfed and led to a full-blown economic meltdown in Argentina in 2001. *(See story on this page.)*

Camacho had admitted as early as Dec. 10 last year—barely two weeks after leaving the Cabi-

CAMACHO/ A8

HOT ON ICE: The SM Philippines ice skating team won 90 gold medals, 62 silvers and 26 bronze to emerge as champion at the Ice Skating Institute of America World Championships in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was the first championship for a non-US team. Jacklyn Kate Guevara, 4, shows off her gold and bronze medals. VAL HANDUMON

What happened to Argentina in 2001

By PDI Research

A GROUP of UP economists has warned that, unless it acts urgently, the Philippines may be plunged into a crisis similar to that which befell Argentina in 2001.

The Argentine crisis brought down three presidents.

Here is what happened to that Latin American country:

When Carlos Menem became president of Argentina in 1989, the country had been suffering from large budget deficits. Focusing on the economy, he launched an austerity program and introduced reforms. He liberalized trade, curtailed government spending and privatized many state-controlled industries. He also raised taxes.

In 1992, Argentina introduced a new currency, the peso, and pegged it to the US dollar to restore confidence and combat hyperinflation.

The fixed rate was seen then as the main factor for the economic rebound that followed. The inflation was tamed, the economy prospered and the government snapped out of its cycle of deficits.

Menem was reelected president in 1995.

By that time, unemployment was becoming a problem as privatized companies laid off workers. At one point, unemployment hit 18 percent.

The good times were not to

WHAT/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming more frequent rains over the western section. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/25/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Second FRONTPAGE
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rainshowers	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

SC affirms graft case vs Danding, JPE

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has upheld its decision ordering the prosecution of the P9.6-billion graft case against Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and nine others for the illegal use of the coconut levy funds.

The high court's 2nd Division dismissed separate motions for reconsideration from Cojuangco and the government and affirmed its September 2002 decision ordering the Office of the Ombudsman to proceed with the preliminary investigation of the graft charges.

Cojuangco and the other respondents were charged with using the coco levy funds to purchase 16 oil mills during the rule of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The court, however, modified its earlier decision, dropping the charges against one of the accused, Zamboanga City Mayor Ma. Clara Lobregat who died on Jan. 2, 2004.

It also dismissed the government's petition to have Teodoro D. Regala and Jose C. Concepcion charged in the case, reiterating its previous ruling which dismissed the charges against the two as they only provided legal services to the other respondents.

The resolution, penned by Associate Justice Ma. Alicia Martinez, was handed down on Aug. 16 and released yesterday.

Sanctioned by Marcos

The high tribunal rejected Cojuangco's contention that he and his co-respondents should not be charged for violating the Revised Penal Code and the Anti-Graft Law (RA 3019) since the acquisition of the 16 oil mills was sanctioned by Marcos' Presidential Decrees 961 and 1468 which set out the policies of the Marcos regime on the coconut industry.

The high court said the acquisition of the oil mills "caused undue prejudice, disadvantage and injury to the government" and that Cojuangco and his co-respondents had a "material and personal interest" in the acquisition, "acts which have already been defined as corrupt practices and declared unlawful under RA 3019."

Blanket shield

It said that to uphold the arguments of Cojuangco would "create a blanket shield" against the prosecution for violations of the Revised Penal Code and the Anti-Graft Law, and would place public officers committing such acts "beyond reach, despite the undue damage, injury and prejudice to the government, and the personal gain and material interest of the public officers involved."

The tribunal also dismissed Cojuangco's argument that his right to a speedy disposition of the case had been violated, noting that between 1991 and 1997 Cojuangco "did nothing to assert his right to a speedy disposition of his case."

It said Cojuangco's right to a speedy disposition of his case should not preclude the people's equally important right to public justice "considering that the funds used to acquire the 16 mothballed oil mills came from the coconut levy funds, which are not only affected with public interest, but are in fact prima facie public funds."

In its September 2002 decision, the high court directed the Ombudsman to proceed with the preliminary investigation of the original complaint lodged with the Presidential Commission on Good Government in February 1990.

Other respondents

Besides Enrile, Cojuangco and Lobregat, the other respondents were Rolando de la Cuesta, Jose Mendoza, Emmanuel Alameda, Hermenegildo Zayco, Amado Mamuric, Douglas Lu Ym, Jaime Gandiaga, Narciso Pineda and Danilo Ursua.

The complaint alleged that the respondents conspired with Marcos in "willfully and unlawfully" misappropriating P9.6 billion of coco levy funds in 1979 to acquire the 16 oil mills, only to mothball them and assume the defaulted obligations of seven of the mills "in order to establish a monopoly."

To effect the deal, the respondents allegedly acted in their official capacity as members of the governing board of the Philippine Coconut Authority, a government agency under the Office of the President, being subordinates and close associates of Marcos, and also as members of the board of directors of the United Coconut Planters Bank and United Coconut Oil Mills (Unicom).

Because the high court had prohibited the PCGG from conducting the preliminary investigation of anti-graft and corrupt cases, the PCGG officials transmitted the case to the Ombudsman's office.

However, Ombudsman graft investigation officer Aleu A. Amante issued a resolution in 1997 recommending the dismissal of the charges on the ground that there was no sufficient evidence that the Anti-Graft Law was violated.

Case dismissed

Based on Amante's recommendation, then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto approved the dismissal of the case on July 4, 1997, and denied the PCGG's motion for reconsideration on Sept. 18, 1997.

The PCGG elevated the case to the Supreme Court which on Sept. 23, 2002, annulled Amante's and Desierto's resolutions, and ordered the Ombudsman to proceed with its investigation of the original complaint against Cojuangco, Enrile and the other respondents.

Mending tattered US ties Romulo's priority at DFA

By TJ Burgonio

NEW FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo admitted yesterday that restoring the country's ties with the United States would be on top of his agenda.

Romulo, who took over from Delia Albert in simple rites at the Department of Foreign Affairs—however, declared that he would pursue an "independent foreign policy" in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution.

Romulo became the 24th foreign affairs secretary, and the third Romulo to occupy the portfolio, after his uncle Carlos P. Romulo and cousin Roberto Romulo.

The 71-year-old Romulo stressed that the country's foreign policy under his watch would be shaped by the "eight realities" enunciated by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"First is that China, Japan and the United States have a determining influence in the security situation and economic evolution of East Asia," he said in his speech at the DFA's Mabini Hall.

The other realities involved the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the International Islamic Community, multilateral and inter-regional organizations, defense of the nation's sovereignty, environment and natural resources; direct foreign investments, international tourism and overseas Filipino workers.

"We must also underscore that our strategic alliance with the United States in the war against global terrorism remains vital to our national security," he said in his address.

When asked later if mending relations with its major ally would be a top priority, Romulo said: "As I said we will follow the eight-point agenda of the President. The first is China, Japan and the United States on security as well as economic aspects."

Biggest challenge

"Everything is a big challenge," he added.

Rafael Seguis, DFA undersecretary for special concerns, agreed with Romulo that repairing the damage caused by the withdrawal of the country's 51-man humanitarian contingent from Iraq would be his biggest challenge.

The withdrawal, designed to save Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz from being beheaded, whipped up a storm of criticism and touched off a diplomatic row with the US and other members in the coalition of the willing.

"There are challenges along the way [with regard to] our bilateral relations with other countries like the US ... and he will be able to handle that," Seguis said.

Albert, for her part, said that Romulo was assuming the top DFA post "at a crucial time in our foreign policy."

Constitution as guide

Romulo, sporting a new haircut and clad in a barong Tagalog, stressed that the Constitution would serve as his guide each time he implements the country's foreign policy.

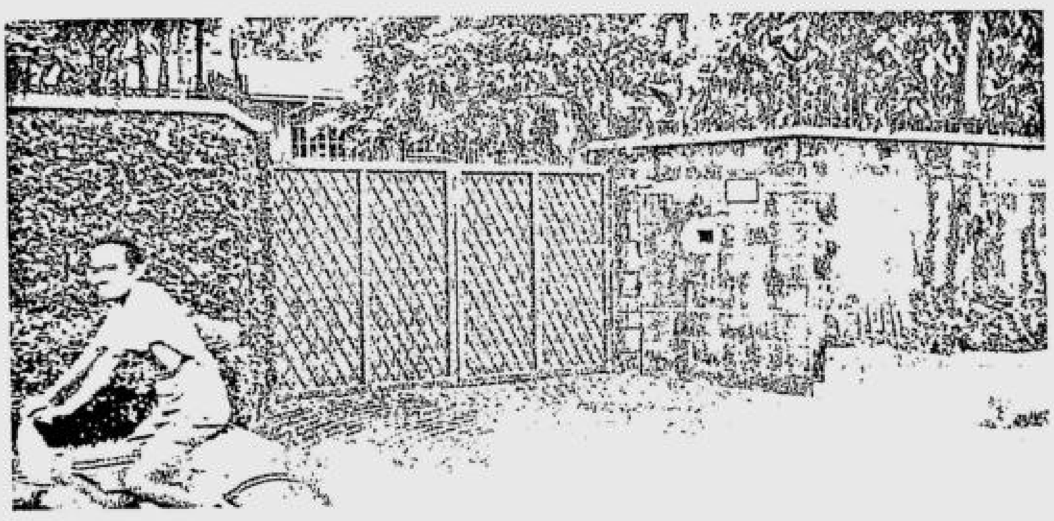
"In the conduct of foreign policy, my guidepost and lodestar is no less than the Constitution with its clear mandate to pursue an independent foreign policy with paramount consideration being national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest and the right to self-determination," he said.

"We shall not falter nor flinch in the pursuit of these lofty, noble and Filipino goals," he said.

This policy hewed closely to the one adopted by Ms Arroyo at the height of the De la Cruz hostage crisis.

"In the Angelo de la Cruz crisis we were tested—and we prevailed," Romulo said. "We stood four square behind the President who stuck to her oath and took full responsibility for the decision leading to the eventual release of Angelo de la Cruz."

In the end, he said, it's the President who would define the country's foreign policy.



HIGH RENT DISTRICT
The gate is closed at 38 McKinley Road, Forbes Park, the 4,500-sq.m. property that was ceded to the University of the Philippines by US financial giant Citibank in 1974 when the Laurel-Langley Agreement which allowed foreigners to own property in the country expired. Since then Citibank had been paying P1,000 a month in rent for the property which is the home of the Citibank country manager. With the expiration of the 25-year lease contract with Citibank, UP wants the multinational firm to pay $10,000 a month in rent. Citibank has offered P150,000.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Poll machines overpriced—Comelec

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE COMMISSION on Elections admitted yesterday before a Senate committee inquiry that the automatic counting machines that were purchased for the aborted automation of the May 10 elections had been overpriced by some P300 million.

Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who had sought the inquiry into the Comelec deal with Mega Pacific Solutions, said the seven Comelec commissioners could be impeached based on that admission.

The commissioners could even be criminally prosecuted, said Pimentel, who claimed in a privilege speech titled "Mega Bucks Blind Comelec " that the purchase of 1,991 automated counting machines from Mega Pacific was "grossly overpriced" by as much as P300 million.

Summoned to appear before the Senate Blue Ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo was the entire Comelec *en banc* headed by chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. However, only three commissioners made it to the hearing—Florentino Tuason Jr., Rufino Javier and Resurrection Borra.

The commissioners agreed with Pimentel's assertion that the manufacturing price of the 1,991 automated counting machines was only about P550 million.

Lawyer Jose Tolentino Jr., project director for the automation project, argued that Comelec officials could not be faulted for the apparent overprice as the cost "[fell] within the agency estimate," which was P900 million.

Why is Willie V. practically everywhere with GMA?

A COINCIDENCE, insists ex-Rep. Willie Villarama, of the instances he was caught on camera with President Arroyo. Both are shown in this file photo taken at Malacañang last year.
VAL HANDUMON

By Carlito Pablo

EX-BULACAN congressman Wilfrido Villarama has a knack for being in the right place at the right time—mainly at photo opportunities with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Villarama walked Ms Arroyo into the session hall of Congress on June 24 when she was proclaimed the winner of the May 10 elections. He was also there during the President's June 30 inaugural in Cebu City.

Last Monday, the former legislator was on the same stage as the President during the swearing in of Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay.

Because of this, people have been assuming that Villarama is *malakas* (influential) with the President and have been approaching him for appointments to Malacañang.

Recently, he was attacked by a radio commentator for purportedly aspiring to be the President's chief of staff.

Villarama has decided to set the record straight.

"I am not what some people think I am—a powerful adviser of GMA. I am not a Rasputin. I am not a Black Pope. I am just one of her many friends who want to help her succeed," he said in an interview.

He said the instances he had been in the same picture or video as the President were mere coincidences.

Take the case of the June 24 proclamation of the President. Villarama said he was just supposed to welcome the movie stars who supported Ms Arroyo. Suddenly, the First Couple arrived and the official welcoming party wasn't there.

"I had no alternative but to welcome and accompany them. This was recorded on TV," he said.

Villarama was at Camp Crame last Monday for the Aglipay's swearing in only because the ex-congressman is related to an in-law of the new PNP chief.

"I just happened to be seated near the President," he said.

Villarama said he tries to avoid the cameras whenever he's in the same company as Ms Arroyo.

"Perception sometimes is regarded as reality. It's giving me problems. I am not aspiring for any position," he stressed.

Villarama, who campaigned for the President's election, lost his bid for a second term as representative of the second district of Bulacan in the May 10 elections. He is covered by the one-year ban on appointments to public office imposed on losing candidates.

But one thing Villarama can't deny is his long and close association with Ms Arroyo.

"We were officemates at the Department of Trade and Industry after Edsa 1 where we both started as assistant secretaries. I was also her first chief of staff when she became vice president," he said.

"Our families go a long way. My uncle, former Bulacan Gov. Jose Villarama, was a creation of his *kumpadre*—President Diosdado Macapagal," Villarama said.

"I believe that we do not need a title if we sincerely want to help our country," he added.

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- All entries may be submitted in Black and White or Full Color.
- Film entries should be printed on photo paper, sized to 8"x10" with their corresponding negative files.
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- Deadline of entries is on 31 August 2004 (12 o'clock midnight).

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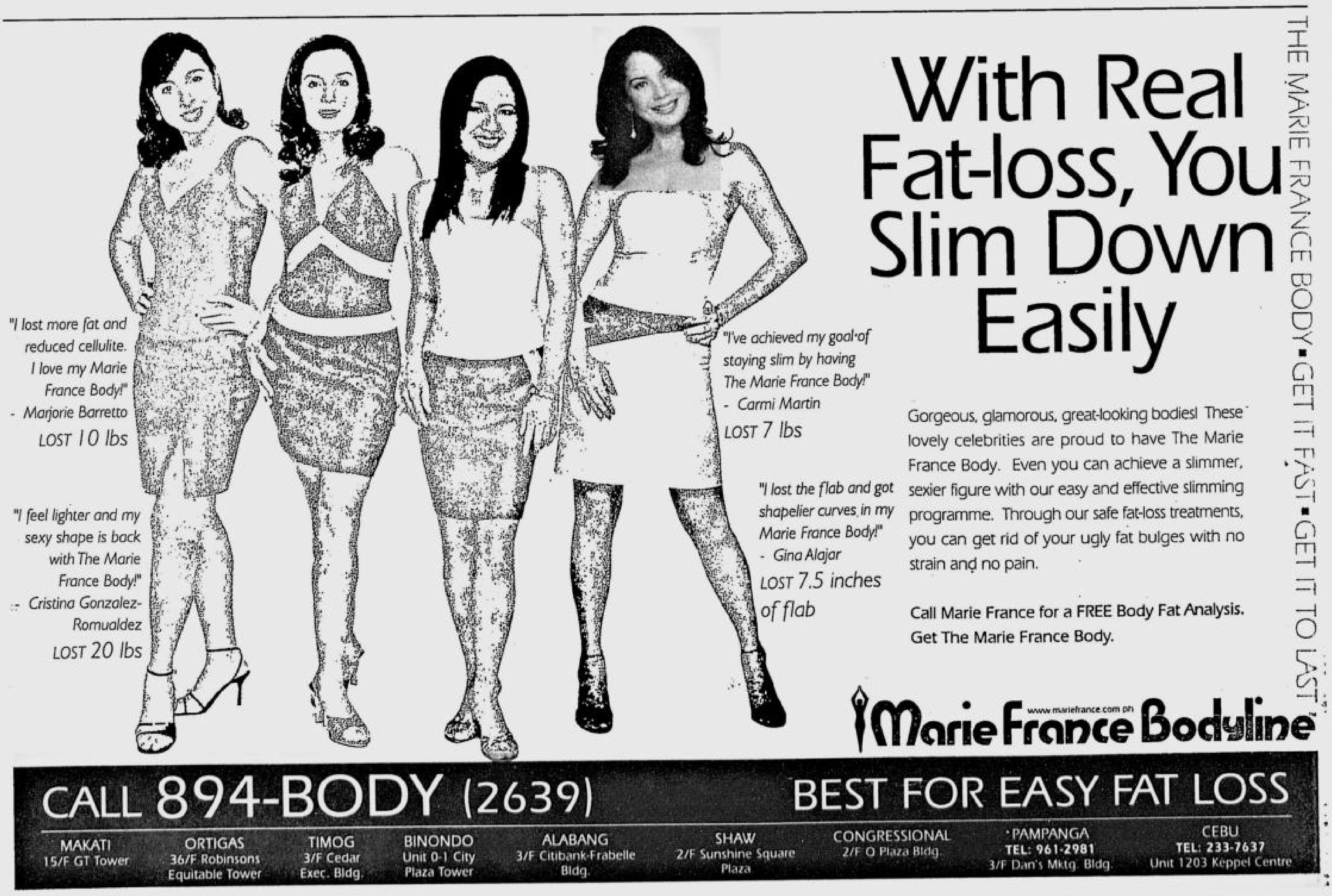

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9 senators agree to reduce pork barrel

From page A1

Cayetano, Rodolfo Biazon, Lito Lapid and Dick Gordon.

The Senate also approved yesterday a resolution calling a caucus of all senators to "identify strategic measures and priority legislation to efficiently and effectively solve the most urgent problems of our nation."

Sharing the burden

The president of the League of Municipalities in the Philippines (LMP) said in Cebu he was amenable to cutting the internal revenue allotment (IRA) share of certain local government units.

Mayor Ronald Alan Cesante of Dalaguete town said first, second and third-class cities, towns and provinces could afford a cut in the IRA, but not those in the fourth, fifth and sixth classes.

"We have to share the burden. Everybody must go where the decision of the President goes. We must also tighten our belts," said Cesante, who is also LMP national auditor.

But he clarified that this was only his personal opinion. He said he was waiting for LMP officials in Manila to call for a meeting and come up with an official stand on the fiscal problem.

On the other hand, the legislative council of Quezon province appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo not to cut or suspend the release of the IRA share of LGUs.

Board Member Narciso Malite said the proposed suspension of the IRA would only result in the additional deprivation of small LGUs nationwide.

"Most of these villages rely on their annual share from the IRA. They don't have any means to generate sufficient revenues to fund their programs and projects other than the IRA," he said.

Malite said most of the small villages had an IRA share of only P200,000, an amount that also served as their annual budget.

"The barangay has limited taxing power," he pointed out.

The Local Government Code stipulates that the IRA consist of 40 percent of the taxes collected by the national government.

This allocation is further divided thus: 23 percent for provinces, 23 percent for cities, 34 percent for municipalities, and 20 percent for barangays.

Malite said the suspension of the IRA would paralyze the delivery of basic services to the people, such as health, education, water, power and livelihood.

The House leadership led by Speaker Jose de Venecia had earlier agreed "in principle" to align their PDAF of P60-65 million annually to the 10-point agenda of the Arroyo administration.

Voluntary basis

But Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul del Mar (Cebu City, North district) said that while "there's a very big chance" that the majority of the congressmen would go along, it was on a voluntary basis.

He said the matter would have to be discussed with the entire House membership.

Congressmen who agree to align their PDAF to the 10-point agenda will no longer have a say on how it will be used.

Del Mar said that during the recent Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council meeting, which he attended, Ms Arroyo merely heard various proposals on how to solve the country's financial woes.

He said Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, president of the League of Provinces in the Philippines, objected to the proposed plan to suspend the IRA for 18 months.

But Aumentado told the Ledac that the governors were not asking for an increase in the IRA, Del Mar said.

He also said the President did not impose anything because she was waiting for voluntary contributions from various sectors.

Paying taxes, etc.

Jaime Dechos, executive director of the Leyte Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the business sector could help the government by "paying the right taxes at the right time."

"Proper collection of taxes must be a consideration," he said.

Dechos said that while there was a need to raise taxes "at this point," other means must also be considered to address the deficit problem.

Among these, he said, was the recovery of all illegally acquired assets of certain sacked government officials, including those of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Nonperforming government assets or agencies must stop getting financial support from the government, he said, adding:

"The fat bureaucracy must also be trimmed down to cut expenses."

Dechos also said the pork barrel fund must be scrapped, especially because the primary function of members of Congress was to legislate laws and not to dispense financial help.

But he expressed opposition to the reduction or withholding of the IRA share, saying it was the "life blood" of LGUs, particularly those in far-flung areas. *With reports from Volt Contreras in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jhunnex Napallacan, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Rich asked to share with poor

By Volt Contreras

SOCIAL WELFARE Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman yesterday urged the rich to "share their surplus with society by way of taxes," and the poor to "organize themselves for productive activities" to better cope with the hard times.

She made the remark in connection with President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement on Monday that the country was already in a fiscal crisis primarily brought about by the swelling budget deficit, mounting foreign debt and poor tax collection.

Soliman told the INQUIRER that Ms Arroyo was "only being realistic and saying that this is a situation where everyone can have a role in the solution."

"We in the Cabinet had been talking about [the crisis] in April and March," but "only in June did the numbers start coming in," she said, adding:

"Even before [the President's] announcement, we in the department had been bracing ourselves for post-election challenges."

With the numbers of the poor expected to rise, Soliman said the Department of Social Welfare and Development would put more focus on mitigating the hardships of those who were literally "in the margin"—meaning the indigenous peoples in the mountains, coastal dwellers and islanders.

What happened . . .

From page A1

last. In 1996, a general strike broke out and Finance Minister Domingo Cavallo was sacked. Recession started to bite.

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$40-B IMF bailout

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

9 senators agree to reduce pork barrel

From page A1

Cayetano, Rodolfo Biazon, Lito Lapid and Dick Gordon.

The Senate also approved yesterday a resolution calling a caucus of all senators to "identify strategic measures and priority legislation to efficiently and effectively solve the most urgent problems of our nation."

Sharing the burden

The president of the League of Municipalities in the Philippines (LMP) said in Cebu he was amenable to cutting the internal revenue allotment (IRA) share of certain local government units.

Mayor Ronald Alan Cesante of Dalaguete town said first, second and third-class cities, towns and provinces could afford a cut in the IRA, but not those in the fourth, fifth and sixth classes.

"We have to share the burden. Everybody must go where the decision of the President goes. We must also tighten our belts," said Cesante, who is also LMP national auditor.

But he clarified that this was only his personal opinion. He said he was waiting for LMP officials in Manila to call for a meeting and come up with an official stand on the fiscal problem.

On the other hand, the legislative council of Quezon province appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo not to cut or suspend the release of the IRA share of LGUs.

Board Member Narciso Malite said the proposed suspension of the IRA would only result in the additional deprivation of small LGUs nationwide.

"Most of these villages rely on their annual share from the IRA. They don't have any means to generate sufficient revenues to fund their programs and projects other than the IRA," he said.

Malite said most of the small villages had an IRA share of only P200,000, an amount that also served as their annual budget.

"The barangay has limited taxing power," he pointed out.

The Local Government Code stipulates that the IRA consist of 40 percent of the taxes collected by the national government.

This allocation is further divided thus: 23 percent for provinces, 23 percent for cities, 34 percent for municipalities, and 20 percent for barangays.

Malite said the suspension of the IRA would paralyze the delivery of basic services to the people, such as health, education, water, power and livelihood.

The House leadership led by Speaker Jose de Venecia had earlier agreed "in principle" to align their PDAF of P60-65 million annually to the 10-point agenda of the Arroyo administration.

Voluntary basis

But Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul del Mar (Cebu City, North district) said that while "there's a very big chance" that the majority of the congressmen would go along, it was on a voluntary basis.

He said the matter would have to be discussed with the entire House membership.

Congressmen who agree to align their PDAF to the 10-point agenda will no longer have a say on how it will be used.

Del Mar said that during the recent Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council meeting, which he attended, Ms Arroyo merely heard various proposals on how to solve the country's financial woes.

He said Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, president of the League of Provinces in the Philippines, objected to the proposed plan to suspend the IRA for 18 months.

But Aumentado told the Ledac that the governors were not asking for an increase in the IRA, Del Mar said.

He also said the President did not impose anything because she was waiting for voluntary contributions from various sectors.

Paying taxes, etc.

Jaime Dechos, executive director of the Leyte Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the business sector could help the government by "paying the right taxes at the right time."

"Proper collection of taxes must be a consideration," he said.

Dechos said that while there was a need to raise taxes "at this point," other means must also be considered to address the deficit problem.

Among these, he said, was the recovery of all illegally acquired assets of certain sacked government officials, including those of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Nonperforming government assets or agencies must stop getting financial support from the government, he said, adding:

"The fat bureaucracy must also be trimmed down to cut expenses."

Dechos also said the pork barrel fund must be scrapped, especially because the primary function of members of Congress was to legislate laws and not to dispense financial help.

But he expressed opposition to the reduction or withholding of the IRA share, saying it was the "life blood" of LGUs, particularly those in far-flung areas. *With reports from Volt Contreras in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jhunnex Napallacan, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Rich asked to share with poor

By Volt Contreras

SOCIAL WELFARE Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman yesterday urged the rich to "share their surplus with society by way of taxes," and the poor to "organize themselves for productive activities" to better cope with the hard times.

She made the remark in connection with President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement on Monday that the country was already in a fiscal crisis primarily brought about by the swelling budget deficit, mounting foreign debt and poor tax collection.

Soliman told the INQUIRER that Ms Arroyo was "only being realistic and saying that this is a situation where everyone can have a role in the solution."

"We in the Cabinet had been talking about [the crisis] in April and March," but "only in June did the numbers start coming in," she said, adding:

"Even before [the President's] announcement, we in the department had been bracing ourselves for post-election challenges."

With the numbers of the poor expected to rise, Soliman said the Department of Social Welfare and Development would put more focus on mitigating the hardships of those who were literally "in the margin"—meaning the indigenous peoples in the mountains, coastal dwellers and islanders.

What happened . . .

From page A1

last. In 1996, a general strike broke out and Finance Minister Domingo Cavallo was sacked. Recession started to bite.

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Thousands of youths jampack job fair

From page A1

Around 4,000 jobseekers trooped to the Philippine Trade and Training Center yesterday, the last day of the fair hosted by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.

Ecop had gathered 69 companies looking to fill 3,753 vacancies. According to the Pasay City public employment services office, 3,696 applicants registered beforehand but many more turned up. Some, like Javier, came with friends; others brought their infant children. Everyone carried two or more resumés.

Majority of the registered applicants were aged 18 to 24.

Last-minute rush

The job fair opened on Monday and was scheduled to close yesterday at 2 p.m. But the heavy turnout compelled the organizers to extend the fair until 5 p.m., according to Jose Roland Moya, Ecop deputy director general.

Globe Telecoms, one of the booths that attracted the biggest number of applicants, was still doing interviews at 4:45 p.m.

The guards at first refused to let in applicants after 4 p.m., but eventually relented. Latecomers rushed in, picked up scattered flyers and posters, scanned for prospects, and hurriedly jotted down office and e-mail addresses.

Those exiting the hall made a final stop just outside the door where bulletin boards announcing more job openings had been set up. Next to it, a Shoe Mart drop box was stuffed with folded resumés.

"Do you think anything will come out of this?" Lucy, who has been job-hunting for the past five months, asked the INQUIRER. "Employment agencies have given me the runaround. They just took my money."

Lucy, 28, was hoping to work as a saleslady at any SM mall. But the age requirement for the job was 18 to 25. After three hours at the job fair, Lucy managed to give her resumé to only two companies.

Major hitch

Mismatches proved to be a major problem. Moya said many of the vacancies had been open for months, but the companies could not find workers with compatible skills.

He said the job fair was an expression of support by the business community for President Macapagal-Arroyo's pledge to create six to 10 million jobs in the next six years. "When the President announced that, we thought we should respond appropriately. After all, it is business that creates jobs."

In March, the President admitted that unemployment was the country's biggest problem. As of early this year, some 3.9 million, or 11 percent of the 34-million work force, were reported jobless. The figure was higher than the recorded 3.56 million in the same period last year.

One-stop shop

Moya said Ecop had wanted to create a "one-stop shop" at the fair with reputable employers participating, since many applicants did not have the resources required for job-hunting.

The Ecop managed to gather together such companies as Cebu Pacific, Rustan, Watson's, Centropell, Abenson, Dunlop Slazenger, Fujitsu, Convergys, Transnational Diversified Group, Figaro, Tokyo Tokyo, Magoo's, Goldilocks, North Park, Pancake House, Citibank, Bank of Commerce, Security Bank, UCPB and several placement agencies.

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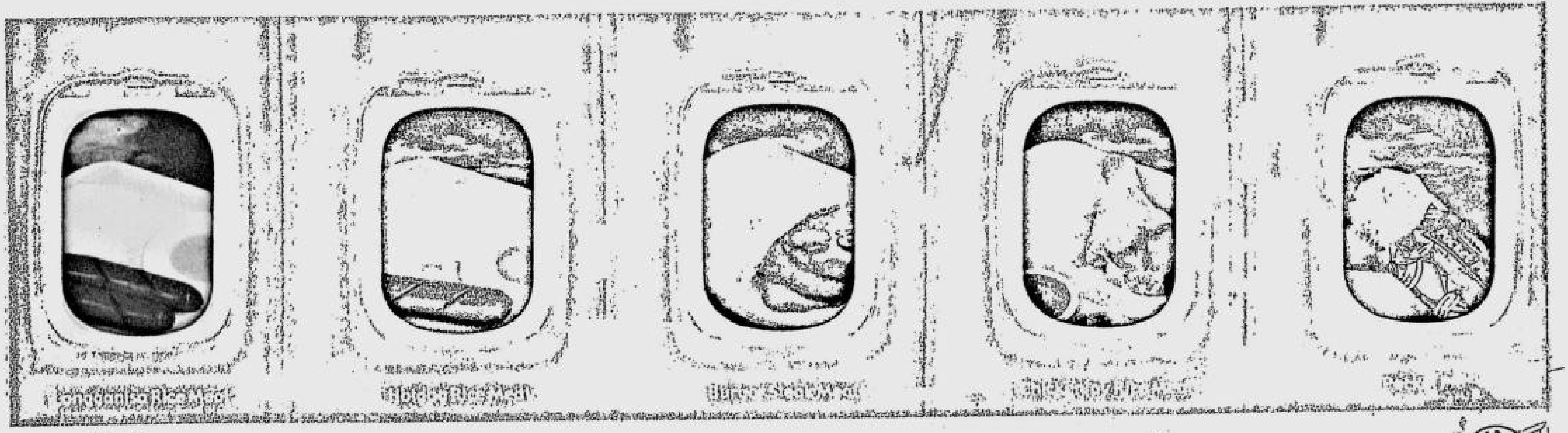
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Retired soldiers in danger of losing pensions

OFFICERS of the military retirement fund system yesterday agreed with Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's findings that the 31-year-old Retirement Separation and Benefit System (RSBS) was not only losing money but would not be able to meet its mandate of taking over from the government the payment of retired soldiers' pensions.

RSBS officials told a Senate committee hearing yesterday that even if the 1997 Asian financial crisis had not happened, the Armed Forces' pension fund would still not be able to attain a "state of perpetual self-sufficiency" because of structural defects.

The RSBS suffered greatly during the 1997 financial crisis because it had invested heavily in real estate.

Among the RSBS' structural defects is the low contribution rate of five percent by its members, the RSBS officers said in the presentation they made to the Senate national defense committee yesterday.

Unlike the Government Service Insurance System for government employees and the Social Security System for private sector workers, there is no counterpart contribution from employers to the RSBS.

The contributions are refunded to RSBS members upon their separation or retirement from the service, with six percent compounded interest.

"Thus, instead of the contributions helping to build up the fund to the point of self-sufficiency, these are returned," the RSBS said in its presentation.

Only the "residual earnings of the fund are left in the pension to accumulate," they said.

Biazon, who heads the committee that is conducting hearings on the viability of the RSBS, said the hearings would focus on efforts to restructure the RSBS as there are fears the government may not be able to provide for the pension of military retirees.

"The financial crisis at this point may impact on the capability of the government to pay at present the pension of retirees," he said.

Biazon said that among the proposals for restructuring the RSBS was the reorganization of the pension fund along the lines of the GSIS and SSS. *Christine O. Avendaño*

Rebel group vows revenge

THE REVOLUTIONARY Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) on Monday vowed to avenge its fallen commander who was gunned down together with his daughter in Aklan on Sunday.

"The organization condemns this dastardly and cowardly killing," Carapali Lualhati, RPA national commander, told the INQUIRER. "We promise to give him justice through whatever means."

Three armed men on a motorcycle shot and killed Daniel "Ka Mokong" Batoy, RPA-ABB Western Visayas commander, and his 16-year-old daughter, Diane Jane, in Makapo, Aklan, at around 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Lualhati said his group was looking into the involvement of the Communist Party of the Philippines in the killing.

He said the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, had long placed all RPA-ABB leaders on their hit list.

"They are our primary suspect," he said.

But Lualhati said the RPA-ABB was open to the possibility that other groups, including the military, may have been behind the killing. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CIRCULAR NO. 443
Series of 2004

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 841 dated 10 June 2004, a paragraph is hereby added under Subsection X303.1l of the Manual of Regulations for Banks (MORB) to read as follows:

"l. *Commercial or business paper actually owned by the person negotiating the same* shall mean a paper arising from an actual business transaction. A trade acceptance or promissory note actually owned by the person negotiating the same is a commercial or a business paper. However, if a bill is drawn against an agent or fictitious drawee, or if a promissory note is executed by an agent or fictitious drawee, neither is a commercial nor a business paper. Commercial or business papers actually owned and discounted by the person negotiating the same, which are past due or the maturity of which have been extended, shall be considered as money borrowed and shall be subject to the limitation of twenty-five percent (25%) provided in the first paragraph of this Section: PROVIDED, THAT COMMERCIAL OR BUSINESS PAPERS PURCHASED BY BANKS FROM SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs) WHICH BECAME PAST DUE OR THE MATURITIES OF WHICH HAVE BEEN EXTENDED, SHALL BE CONSIDERED ADDITIONAL LOAN BY THE BANK TO THE PURCHASER OF GOODS OR SERVICES FROM THE SME AND SHALL BE ENTITLED TO AN INCREASED SBL EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE NET WORTH OF THE CONCERNED BANK IF THE PURCHASERS ARE COMPANIES WITH CREDIT RATINGS OF AT LEAST "AA -" OR EQUIVALENT FROM A BSP-RECOGNIZED RATING AGENCY.

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

FOR THE MONETARY BOARD:

(Sgd.) AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.
Officer In-Charge

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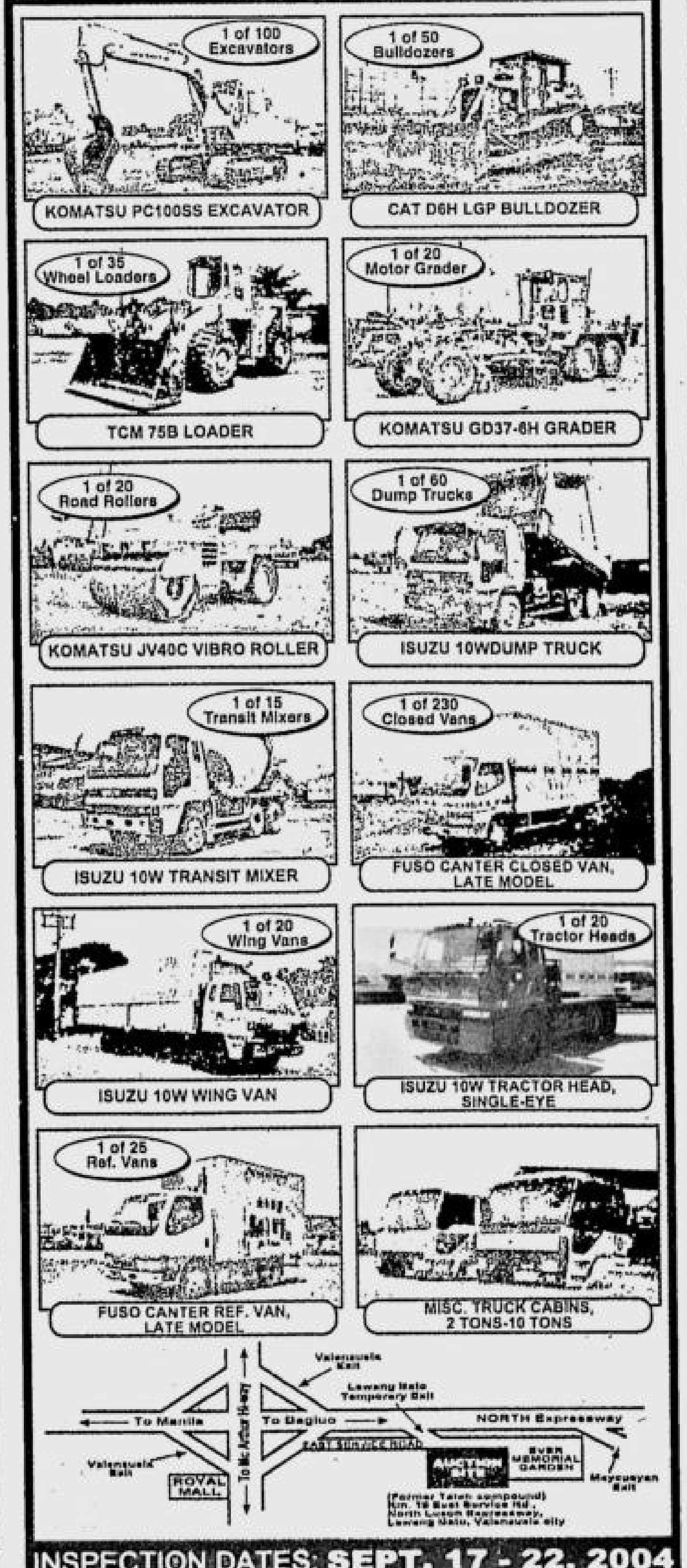

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Muntinlupa asks Enrile for help against Meralco

By Jerome Aning

THE MUNTINLUPA City government has asked Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to help it collect P95 million in unpaid real property taxes from Manila Electric Co.

Mayor Jaime Fresnedi said the city suffered a setback after the Supreme Court recently granted Meralco's third motion for reconsideration and ordered the tax case remanded to the regional trial court.

The Supreme Court cannot reverse its final decision, the mayor said.

In 2001, the high tribunal ruled in favor of the city and upheld the warrants of garnishment against Meralco's deposits in three banks for the power distributor's non-payment of delinquent realty taxes. Over the last 20 years, Meralco's unpaid property taxes amounted to P95,798,413 on an assessed value of P704,400,100 at a tax rate of 2.5 percent.

Fresnedi is hoping that Enrile, a known Meralco critic, could help City Hall collect the amount. Muntinlupa needs the money to construct new schools, roads and a sports complex that would double as an evacuation center.

On Monday, the city council passed a resolution calling on Congress to enact legislation that would remedy the Supreme Court's decision favoring Meralco.

Councilor Raul Corro, who was shocked by the high court's ruling, said the city would be filing a "resolution of indignation."

He noted that the rules of court say that once the Supreme Court has ruled on a case with finality, nobody can file a second motion for reconsideration.

"The city will not be left sitting on the matter because no private entity, regardless of how wealthy or influential it is, should be allowed to trample on the sacred rules of the land which is the very core of our democratic institution," Corro said.

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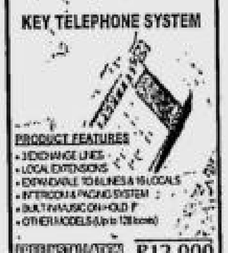

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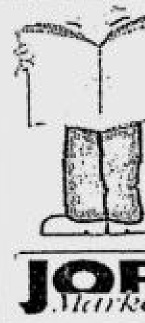

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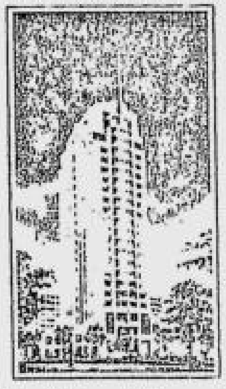

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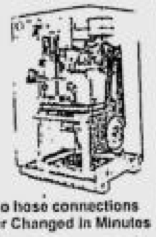

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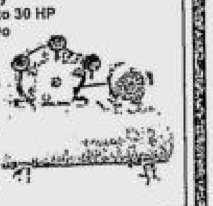

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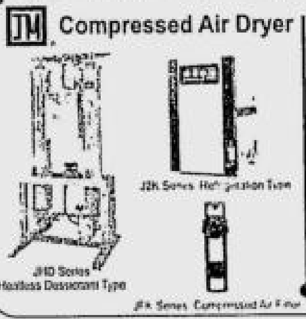
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Emergency powers bid backed, bucked

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

AT LEAST one senator is in favor of the grant of "certain" emergency powers to President Macapagal-Arroyo for the purpose of containing the fiscal crisis that she said was besetting the country.

But administration Sen. Rodolfo Biazon stressed yesterday that these special powers should be "clearly defined" by Congress, the way it did in 1992 when it vested such powers on then President Fidel Ramos to allow him to address the energy crisis.

Biazon also said Congress had to be "very, very clear" on what exactly the crisis was.

"First, [we must] define what constitutes a fiscal crisis," he said. "If we are able to define it, we will be able to pick out the law or laws that we may need to suspend."

On Monday, businessman Raul Concepcion told the Senate that Ms Arroyo should be given special powers to control the possible skyrocketing of prices. According to Sen. Mar Roxas, however, Concepcion's proposal was probably a "cry of frustration."

But Sen. Joker Arroyo, a member of the administration coalition, warned yesterday that granting the President emergency powers would be like giving her and her lieutenants "toys" to "mess around" with.

Arroyo told reporters after a hearing conducted by the Senate blue ribbon committee that he was a "little worried" about Biazon's position.

He said giving Ms Arroyo special powers was uncalled for because "we have not yet reached that point where accountable officers should answer questions."

Bad experience

"Until that is reached, I don't think the executive should ask for emergency powers. They should know their part. We should find out from [revenue] collection agencies what they have done. if they can't explain, why should we give them new taxes?" he said.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara cited what he called a "bad experience" with emergency powers.

Angara said "there was really a palpable reason" for the grant of special powers to Ramos.

"[But] now, we're trying to solve our general financial condition," he said. "You mean you give a general emergency power to the President? Emergency power simply means a martial law type of power. Is that what the public would like? I don't think so," he said.

Angara said he was opposed to the idea because it was bereft of any justification.

"We have a bad experience with emergency power," he said. "We gave it to President Ramos, and we're still paying for it. We're paying for electricity we're not using. The purchasing power adjustment is the immediate result of that emergency power, so we're not about to make the same mistake this time."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the grant of special powers was not the "best" remedy.

"I think we should be careful about granting more powers than are already available to the incumbent," Pimentel said. "I suppose [it can be done] in extreme cases, but it has to be demonstrated by the situation."

Summons

The heads of the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, National Treasury, National Economic and Development Authority, Bureau of Internal Revenue and of Customs will be summoned to the Senate tomorrow to explain the so-called fiscal crisis.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said the economic managers would be taken to task for their failure to reverse the crisis despite the warnings of US Treasury officials in May 2003 and 11 economists of the University of the Philippines.

The 11, all faculty members of the UP School of Economics, had warned of economic collapse in two to three years in a 28-page paper titled "The Deepening Crisis: The Real Score on Deficits and Public Debt."

They will be asked to share their expertise in scrutinizing the Arroyo administration's six-year fiscal plan, which will be presented by the DOF and the DBM, Recto said.

Recto has filed Senate Resolution No. 32, which seeks to examine, in aid of legislation, the fiscal plan in relation to the Medium-Term Development Plan of the Arroyo administration.

In the resolution, Recto said the country was facing a fiscal crisis "of unprecedented proportions, thereby posing an immediate threat to political and economic stability."

He expressed the belief that a multipronged response to avert instability was necessary because, he said, "the current fiscal problem is a problem not only of revenue generation but of prudence in spending as well."

No such animal

But Recto also said in a statement that there was no need for the President to declare a state of fiscal crisis, or even a state of "unmanageable national budget deficit."

He said there was "no such animal in our law books."

Recto said Ms Arroyo should not make such a declaration because even if the quarterly budget deficit targets were not met last June, "that doesn't mean we have lost our handle on the deficit."

He insisted that there were more ways to retain, reduce, or withhold budgetary releases "without sending alarm bells all over."

'Pompous labeling'

"Let the fiscal crisis or unmanageable deficit simmer in their de facto existence," Recto said. "There is no need to hype them up and accentuate their features by giving [them] pompous labeling. As [the President's] battle cry in her State of the Nation Address said, 'Just do it.'"

Meralco to increase rates by 17.37 ¢/kWh

From page A1

tional Power Corp. as well as to Meralco's other independent power producers (IPPs).

The distribution utility gets around half of its power supply from Napocor. The balance comes from IPPs First Gas Power Corp., a Meralco sister firm, and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd.

Recovery mechanism

"Meralco is merely collecting from its customers the reasonable costs imposed upon it by its power suppliers. This does not give Meralco additional income," Albano said in a statement yesterday.

The GRAM is a recovery mechanism that replaced the much condemned purchased power adjustment (PPA) when the ERC approved the unbundling of Meralco's rates last year.

Instead of being able to automatically adjust its charges to reflect the fluctuations in generation costs as a result of movements in fuel prices and the exchange rate, Meralco should first submit an application with the ERC stating how much the company needed to recover for a particular period.

Unlike the PPA, which varied every month, the GRAM covered a three-month period. Only after the ERC approval could a particular GRAM petition take effect.

Meralco's recently approved GRAM covers the period from February to May, but will only take effect in the September billing period.

He added that the continued supply of stable and reliable electricity to customers within Meralco's franchise area was hinged on the power distributor's long-term viability. This was why an adjustment in charges was in order.

Albano explained that, despite lower generation costs registered from February to May, the ERC approved in full Meralco's 17.37-centavo GRAM application as it also took into consideration recovery of the carrying charges under the firm's deferred accounting adjustments (DAA).

Another GRAM in October

The DAA is a cost component in the generation rate put in place to recover generation costs incurred during a particular test period, in this case February to May.

Meralco is expected to submit its fourth GRAM filing some time in October. This future filing will cover generation charges in the June-August period.

The power distributor may have to seek a higher GRAM once the ERC approves a rate hike petition filed by Napocor and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

Automatically take effect

The petition, which is currently going through hearings at the ERC, will double generation charges in the state firm's three main power grids. The resulting increase will come up to an average of P1.87 per kWh nationwide and will cover the July billing period.

The new generation rates, once approved, would increase Napocor's rates to P4.56 per kWh from P2.57 in Luzon, to P4.59 per kWh from P2.82 in the Visayas, and to P3.13 per kWh from P1.80 in Mindanao.

These new rates will allow Napocor to break even and to achieve a return on rate base (RORB), a measure of profitability, of 8 percent.

If the ERC does not reach a final verdict on the petition by Sept. 2, the rate hike application will automatically take effect.

Camacho: The man who said it first

From page A1

net—that the country was in a fiscal mess.

"Argentina had a financial crisis. We have a fiscal crisis. There is a big difference between the two. And I think the President is using [the term] fiscal crisis the same way I used it last year," he said.

Asked if he agreed with Ms Arroyo's statement that the country was in a fiscal crisis, Camacho said: "How can I not agree with her when I said it myself. I think her [intention], similar to my intentions before, was to raise the flag on the severity of the problem and to rally support to the plans of the government to solve the crisis."

Intolerable level

The Philippines, according to the former investment banker, is hobbled by a chronic fiscal deficit that continues to increase the public debt level.

"If debt reaches intolerable level, then we may experience difficulty in servicing or refinancing our debt," he said.

A financial crisis similar to Argentina would mean a severe breakdown in the government ability to finance itself and pay off its maturing obligations.

"A fiscal crisis could lead to a financial crisis if unattended," Camacho said.

Avoided like a plague

"It is like a festering wound that could cause gangrene and lead others to avoid you like a plague. But for as long as we service our maturing obligations, the financial markets would keep on dancing with us, maybe at a higher cost," he added, somewhat mixing his metaphors.

Camacho said the country's condition might not have improved substantially from last year but it had not deteriorated.

"I believe our situation had remained the same, if not better," he said. "The fiscal program appeared to be on track."

He said that last year the budget deficit was slightly lower than the target of P200 billion. In the first half of this year, the deficit had exceeded the target by only P1 billion, he noted.

He stressed, however, that barely meeting deficit targets hardly improved the situation.

Eaten up by fixed costs

Camacho said there was reason to worry and even be alarmed because if the deterioration in public finances was not arrested, then the Philippines could easily slip into a crisis similar to Argentina in two to three years.

The most crucial impact of the fiscal crisis, he said, is "expenditure compression" or the inability of the government to finance critical expenditure items because its budget is being eaten up by fixed costs, such as interest payments on debt, internal revenue allotments for local governments, and the cost of overhead or the salaries of government workers.

According to a recent paper of 11 UP economists, national government spending had declined significantly since 1999 and was now at its lowest level in a decade.

Spoiled LGUs

Camacho said the government should put pressure on local government units to become self-sufficient instead of relying on a hard-up national government.

While the national government has been suffering from a deficit, LGUs have consistently registered a surplus, based on the consolidated public sector deficit, he pointed out.

"Some LGUs have become so spoiled and have turned themselves into pensioners waiting for the IRA (internal revenue allotment)," Camacho said.

"The government should put more burden into LGUs to raise funds to finance crucial infrastructure projects in their area and not use their budget allocation to provide unnecessary jobs to their constituents."

Crucial revenue measures

Camacho also recommended the passage of crucial revenue measures, like the indexation of beer and tobacco taxes as well as that of petroleum excise tax.

"Indexing petroleum taxes is important because we actually lose more on it than on sin taxes. This is the reason why our fuel prices have remained one of the cheapest in the region even if we are not an oil producing country," he said.

Buoyant sectors, like telecommunications, should also be taxed heavier. He said fiscal incentives should also be rationalized.

Sharing the pain

"Congress should also pass the fiscal responsibility law that calls for an enactment of a revenue measure every time a new expenditure item was passed. Obviously, the bill to transform the BIR into a corporate revenue agency should also be passed to improve tax administration," he added.

Sharing pain

Camacho said Ms Arroyo's admission of a fiscal crisis should prod everybody into action and stop people from pointing fingers at each other.

"Everybody must do their share. I was happy to hear that some legislators have agreed to cut their pork barrel. The pain of resolving this crisis must be shared by everybody," he noted.

GMA: Gov't can pay off its ₱4-trillion debt

From page A1

meltdown in two to three years similar to Argentina's, which defaulted on its public debt in 2001 because of its ballooning deficit and a staggering amount of debt.

Maximum shock value

Bunye said the President was aiming for maximum shock value. "Awareness of the truth is the first step toward action. President Arroyo called a spade a spade to impress upon the people the seriousness of the situation," he said.

But her economic managers continued to insist that the country was not yet in a fiscal crisis.

"We are not yet in a fiscal crisis," National Treasurer Mina Figueroa told reporters. She said banks had asked her for clarification about the President's statement.

The Development Budget and Coordinating Committee (DBCC), which met late Monday night to discuss the fiscal situation, shared the view of the national treasurer.

A country is in fiscal crisis when it defaults on its debts and suffers from a deficit that can no longer be financed due to limited access to the capital markets, according to the committee.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said Monday that Ms Arroyo used the term fiscal crisis rhetorically.

"Fiscal crisis is an earthshaking phrase to use, one that would rattle financial seismographs as far as Wall Street," administration Sen. Ralph Recto said.

Directed at lawmakers

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the President's statement appeared to be directed toward lawmakers reluctant to support higher taxes, and was meant to serve as a general warning about the Philippine economy.

"The President recognizes there is a problem and unless we act, this could lead to a crisis," Neri told dzMM radio.

The President had proposed to Congress a series of new taxes intended to raise around P80 billion to plug the deficit.

Many lawmakers, however, had expressed reservations about the new taxes, saying the government could raise funds if it improved on tax collection and stamped out corruption.

Still, Congress is expected to pass at least four of eight tax measures, including higher excise taxes on oil products, by the end of the year.

Political color

Like Neri, analysts said the President's statement may have been a shock tactic aimed at pressuring Congress into passing a series of new tax measures.

"I think it's really tainted with political color," said Astro del Castillo, managing director of First Grade Holdings.

"Before the elections, she was saying that the economy was doing well—revenues were getting better, foreign direct investments were flowing in and so forth."

The government missed its deficit target for the first half of the year and foreign investors snapped up its debt, which offers yields around 4.2 percentage points higher than US Treasuries, with little apparent fear of a default.

But economists have warned that the deficit could lead to a fiscal crisis within a few years and say the government needs to take steps quickly to raise one of Asia's lowest tax takes.

They also warned that international ratings agencies could downgrade the Philippines, whose sovereign debt is already two notches below investment grade, if tax reforms were not passed.

Stampeding Congress?

In the Senate, an administration senator believed that Malacañang wanted Congress to agree in imposing new taxes with the President's assertion that the country was in a state of fiscal crisis.

Sen. Joker Arroyo wondered why the President would make the admission only the other day when the country had been in fiscal crisis "for sometime now."

"Has she been waiting for an opening to stampede Congress into mindlessly enacting the terror taxes her advisers have been flaunting?" Arroyo said in a statement.

Economic martial law

The senator said the President's advisers "have been preparing the groundwork for an economic martial law, of granting her emergency powers to repair our broken fiscal situation."

"Over and above that, Malacañang wants a slew of new taxes," Arroyo said.

But he said Congress, especially the Senate, was not ready to go along with Malacañang's bid for new taxes without first finding out "what is wrong and what went wrong with our present tax laws."

It also wanted to look at the accountability of public officers involved in revenue collection.

New toys for tax men

"Were Congress to follow Malacañang's bidding to enact new tax measures, what that means is that we will just be giving new toys to the same company of tax officers to mess around with," he said. "We are not idiots." *Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Reuters, AP and Christine O. Avendaño*

Fiscal crisis differs from economic crisis

From page A1

the same time, it can't borrow to pay those debts," explained Ma. Socorro Gochoco-Bautista, one of the 11 UP School of Economics faculty members who urged the government to immediately do something about its chronic budget deficit and mounting debt burden.

Left unattended, "a fiscal crisis can be the trigger of a bigger economic crisis," Bautista said.

Hard up for cash to pay its huge debt, a government may resort to printing money. A dangerous move, according to Bautista, as this could cause hyperinflation. With more money chasing fewer goods, prices would soar. The peso's value in relation to the dollar would also plunge, making necessary imports—like oil—more expensive.

Or, a cash-strapped government may just decide to default on its loans. An equally dangerous move as foreign and local banks would stop lending not only to the government but to local companies as well. A slump in business activity would lead to massive unemployment—and a lower tax take for the government, further aggravating its budget deficit.

Any which way a government decides on what to do with its debt that has reached unmanageable levels would pull the economy down in a downward spiral.

The country may eventually find itself in such a bleak situation as Argentina in 2001 when it defaulted on its $88-billion debt, according to Bautista.

Food riots, etc

Like Argentines, Filipinos would find it hard to feed their big families. Food riots would break out; crime rates would soar. Investors, foreign and local alike, would flee the country.

"Finally, there will be social and political unrest," said Benjamin Diokno, Bautista's colleague at the UP School of Economics.

Unhappy with their government, Filipinos would take to Edsa once more. Even so, the country's economic problems would linger for years to come.

Such a bleak scenario need not happen, however.

Bautista pointed out that the UP School of Economics paper offered specific measures that the government may take to prevent a fiscal crisis from becoming a full-blown economic crisis.

"We're not alarmist. It is not a gloom-and-doom scenario. We offered concrete proposals to solve the problem," she said. "Everybody just has to share the burden."

Energy dep't battlecry: 'EC way of life'

From page A1

Leave your car at home once a week, on top of the number-coding scheme, join a carpool.

- Close shopping malls, gas stations earlier than usual.
- Ban on purchase of new government vehicles; strictly limit these for official use.
- Promote more fuel-efficient vehicles, vehicle maintenance, better driving habits, use of public parking spaces and public transport systems.
- Fast food restos would be asked to print energy saving tips on their placemats.
- People are encouraged to walk around business districts, or use bicycle lanes that would be put up.
- Shopping malls would be asked to put taxi stands to avoid so many cabs driving round and round the malls looking for fares.
- Put energy consumption stickers on vehicles and appliances.
- Deploy "energy audit teams" to help companies and residential subdivisions monitor their energy consumption.
- Reward the prudent use of energy.

These were among the "strategies" of the government's revived "National Energy Conservation Program" which President Macapagal-Arroyo unveiled yesterday during a meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council, composed of officials of the Cabinet and leaders of Congress.

She is expected to discuss the conservation plans in her "Pulong Bayan" or townhall meeting today, which will be aired live by the government NBN station.

Slash oil import bill

The conservation campaign hopes to slash oil importation by 12 percent, Ms Arroyo said in a statement. All government agencies, which import nearly all of their crude oil will be asked to cut fuel and electricity consumption. The country's oil import expenses have been bloated by record high crude prices.

"Let us make energy conservation a way of life," Ms Arroyo said in statement read to Palace reporters by beleaguered Energy Secretary Vince Perez.

In a PowerPoint presentation at the Palace briefing room, Perez showed the Department of Energy's new battle cry: "EC (energy conservation) way of life."

Voluntary for now

Except for the mandatory government energy consumption cut, all the rest would be voluntary at the moment, according to Perez.

"We have not yet crossed the line of mandatory although there are certain discussions that I am having with Chair Bayani Fernando of the MMDA (Metro Manila Development Authority). I will not reveal details of the discussion at this point but right now they're all voluntary," Perez said.

He said the DOE would immediately launch a massive information campaign on how to save energy.

Perez said the energy conservation program was a short-term answer to the problem of high oil prices, adding that the long-term solution would be to achieve energy independence by tapping local and renewable sources of energy.

Perez noted that Dubai crude had reached an all-time high of $41 per barrel. He said this was higher than the prices after the Iraq invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the US-Iraq war in March last year and when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries cut production in April 2000.

No gas rationing

Perez, who came under fire from Senate President Franklin Drilon and other lawmakers for failing to prevent escalating oil prices, stressed there won't be any gas rationing schemes.

"Please, that is not part of the agenda. We do not have a supply crisis, we only have an oil price crisis. We're trying to mitigate the impact of high oil prices by pushing energy conservation in the consciousness of every Filipino," Perez said.

"I am calling on the public to throw its full support behind our energy efficiency and conservation program," Ms Arroyo said.

She said the DOE spent the past few weeks working on an enercon program that aims to cushion the impact of rising energy prices, reduce expenditures in fuel and electricity without sacrificing productivity and contribute to the protection of the environment.

Ms Arroyo said the program would result in a 12-percent reduction in oil importation, about 23 million barrels of oil, or an annual foreign exchange savings of $784 million.

"To our environment, it would mean cleaner air as we would have avoided about 5,000 gigagrams of carbon dioxide emissions," Ms Arroyo said.

Leadership by example

"How are we going to do this? Leadership by example," she said. "I am therefore directing a moratorium on the purchase of new government vehicles on all government agencies." She said buying new vehicles only increased fuel usage.

She said this would not compromise government productivity. "Instead, we will strictly implement the trip ticket rule on the use of government vehicles," she said, adding there will be "severe penalties" on unofficial or unapproved use of government vehicles and ambulances.

Gasoline allocation to government motor pools will be strictly monitored, she said.

"I am also directing all agencies to strictly impose the mandatory 10-percent reduction in fuel and electricity consumption," she said.

Perez said the 10-percent reduction would mean annual savings of P400 million. He said the government spent P2 billion for fuel every year and another P2 billion for electricity.

"We are encouraging government offices to turn off their air-conditioning beginning at 4 every afternoon and during lunch break, to reduce their lighting," he said.

For starters, Perez said the lighting fixtures in the Palace briefing room would have to be replaced with more energy-saving ones. He would not say if the huge chandeliers at the Palace would be turned off more often to also save on power.

"But the government could not do it alone. We need the public's support," Ms Arroyo said.

She called on the public to sign up for the DOE's "Carless Day Campaign."

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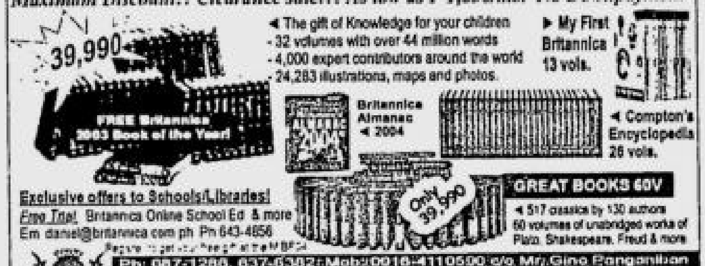

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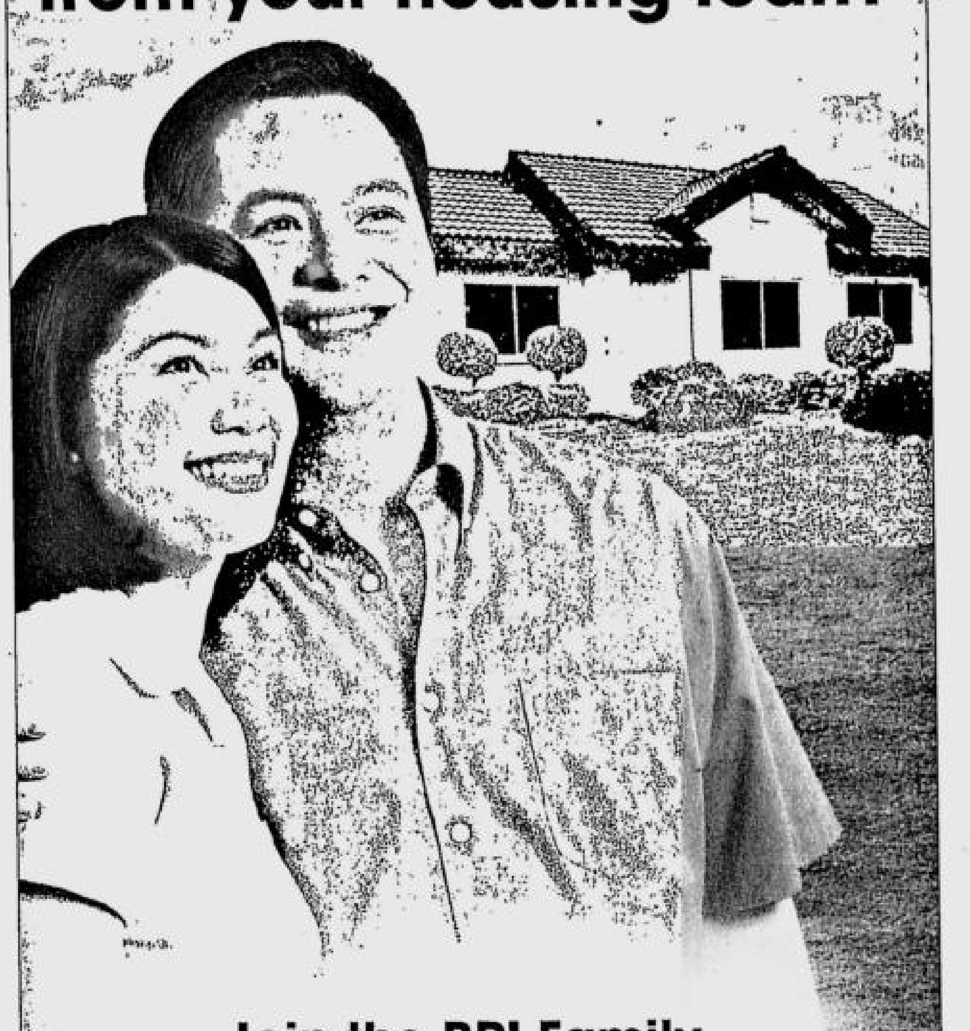

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US starts trials of al-Qaida suspects

GUANTANAMO BAY US NAVAL BASE, Cuba—The United States will on Tuesday start historic military trials against four al-Qaida suspects, including Australian David Hicks, but controversy has raged over the hearings almost up to the last minute.

The military commissions to be held at the Guantanamo Bay US Naval Base have not been used for more than 50 years and the legal process has been strongly criticized by rights groups and lawyers for many of the defendants.

Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a Yemeni who was a driver for Osama bin Laden, will be the first to be formally charged when he appears before the commission of five military officers on Tuesday morning.

Hicks, 29, will follow on Wednesday and another Yemeni and a Sudanese will follow later in the week.

All are charged with conspiracy to commit terrorist attacks or war crimes. The Australian is also accused of attempted murder in Afghanistan in late 2001 just before he was captured.

The US military has imposed strict security for the hearings, to be held in a former World War II command center overlooking the sea at Guantanamo.

No pictures or video film can be taken in or around the building and no phones or other electrical equipment can be taken near it.

Strict reporting rules have also been imposed on about 50 journalists covering the hearings.

Only eight will be allowed inside the tribunal room at one time, the others will watch from a monitoring room where events will be shown with a five-minute delay.

The military authorities on Monday said they would take the pages from reporters' notebooks in the hearing if classified information was mentioned in an open session of the hearings.

The proposal was withdrawn after talks with reporters who highlighted that they have already signed a statement promising not to reveal classified information.

Non-government organizations complained after they were refused permission to meet the commission's presiding officer, Col. Peter Brownback, and the military prosecutors.

US military authorities have insisted the trials will be open and fair, but critics say they do not comply with US or international law because the detainees and evidence against them have been shrouded in secrecy.

American lawyers for Hamdan and others among the 585 Taliban and al-Qaida detainees at Guantanamo have already started action in US courts that is expected to end at the Supreme Court.

All will wear "civilian attire" and will not be in the shackles they carry in Camp Delta.

US authorities have promised that none of the four will face the death penalty. But they could be jailed for life and there is no guarantee that others tried on the same charges in the future will not be sentenced to death.

Hamdan's military-appointed lawyer, Lt. Cmdr. Charlie Swift, has been one of the leading critics of the commission process.

"We just have not been given enough information and access to proceed with hearings as important as these," he said.

Swift said he will concentrate this week on trying to convince the commission of five military officers that US courts should first rule on the legality of the tribunals before full trials go ahead.

According to the lawyer, Hamdan was heading to Tajikistan as a pilgrim when he met Bin Laden in 1996 or 1997. He admits to being Bin Laden's driver but not to being a member of al-Qaida or involvement in terrorist attacks.

Hicks is also expected to plead not guilty. His family is expected in Guantanamo on Tuesday to seek what would be their first meeting with him since his detention in December 2001.

Nearly all of the Guantanamo detainees have been kept for more than two and half years without access to a lawyer or being informed of charges against them. *AFP*

Nationwide strike cripples Bangladesh

DHAKA—Thousands of demonstrators staged marches across Bangladesh Tuesday as a nationwide strike in protest at a deadly grenade attack on an opposition party brought major centers to a halt, police and witnesses said.

Streets in most towns and cities were empty of traffic and shops, schools and colleges were closed, according to various police officials contacted by AFP.

Police, some armed, and paramilitaries patrolled the tense capital Dhaka as the two-day general strike got under way.

A former opposition lawmaker and a Communist Party leader were slightly injured in a scuffle with police in downtown Dhaka, party officials said. Witnesses said about 15 activists were arrested when police moved in on a protest.

"Extra police have been drafted in from other districts to help prevent violence and we have deployed units at all key places in the city," Dhaka Supt. of Police Bakhtiar Alam said.

The southeastern port city of Chittagong was completely shut down and protesters blockaded the main Dhaka-Chittagong highway, police and witnesses said, adding that pickets had smashed a number of vehicles and rickshaws.

There were no deliveries to the port, said Kamrul Hossain, second in command of operations, although work inside was going on as usual.

Armed police and paramilitary units were guarding key installations such as oil refineries, a police spokesperson added.

In northwestern Rajshahi, thousands marched in protest Tuesday and most rickshaws, normally exempt from strikes, were off the roads, police said.

"There are many demonstrations going on in the city but there has not been any violence," said Divisional Inspector General of Police Matiur Rahman.

Police in northeastern Sylhet added that the city had closed down but there were no reports of any incidents.

The situation was similar in southwestern Khulna. "Shops are closed, buses and trucks are not moving and there are many sporadic processions but no violence yet," said Akbar Ali, Khulna Deputy Police Commissioner. *AFP*

POLICE baton charge activists of Bangladesh main opposition the Awami League during a demonstration to protest a deadly grenade attack. AP

Japan wants permanent seat in UN Security Council

TOKYO—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Tuesday he will press Japan's case for a permanent UN Security Council seat when he addresses the world body's General Assembly next month.

"I think it is okay to have a nation becoming a permanent member other than the P5," Koizumi told reporters, referring to the veto-wielding five current permanent members of the council: Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

"This is Japan's view and I think it is a good thing to state it" at the UN General Assembly in late September, the prime minister said.

Japan has long been pushing for permanent Security Council membership, arguing that the size of its economy and financial contributions to the UN—second only to the United States—make it a legitimate candidate.

It has won support from the United States, France and Russia but faces competition from other nations like Germany, India and Brazil which also want permanent seats.

Since taking office in 2001, Koizumi has been reticent about declaring Japan's intention to join the permanent membership.

But the Japanese Army's humanitarian work in Iraq convinced him that Tokyo could contribute more to world affairs as a permanent member without changing the country's war-renouncing constitution, the Mainichi and Asahi dailies reported Tuesday.

The post-war constitution bans the use of force in international disputes.

Japan, one of Washington's staunchest supporters over the Iraq war, dispatched some 550 troops to the southern Iraqi city of Samawa in December to provide humanitarian aid in its most controversial and risky mission since 1945.

In June the Koizumi Cabinet, despite strong public opposition, approved a plan to allow Japanese troops to join a UN-sanctioned multinational force in Iraq.

The prime minister would also use his speech to urge reform of the UN including fairer financial burden-sharing, the Mainichi said. This year Japan is stumping up $279.6 million or 19.5 percent of the total UN budget. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

US eyes excuse to attack Iran, FM says

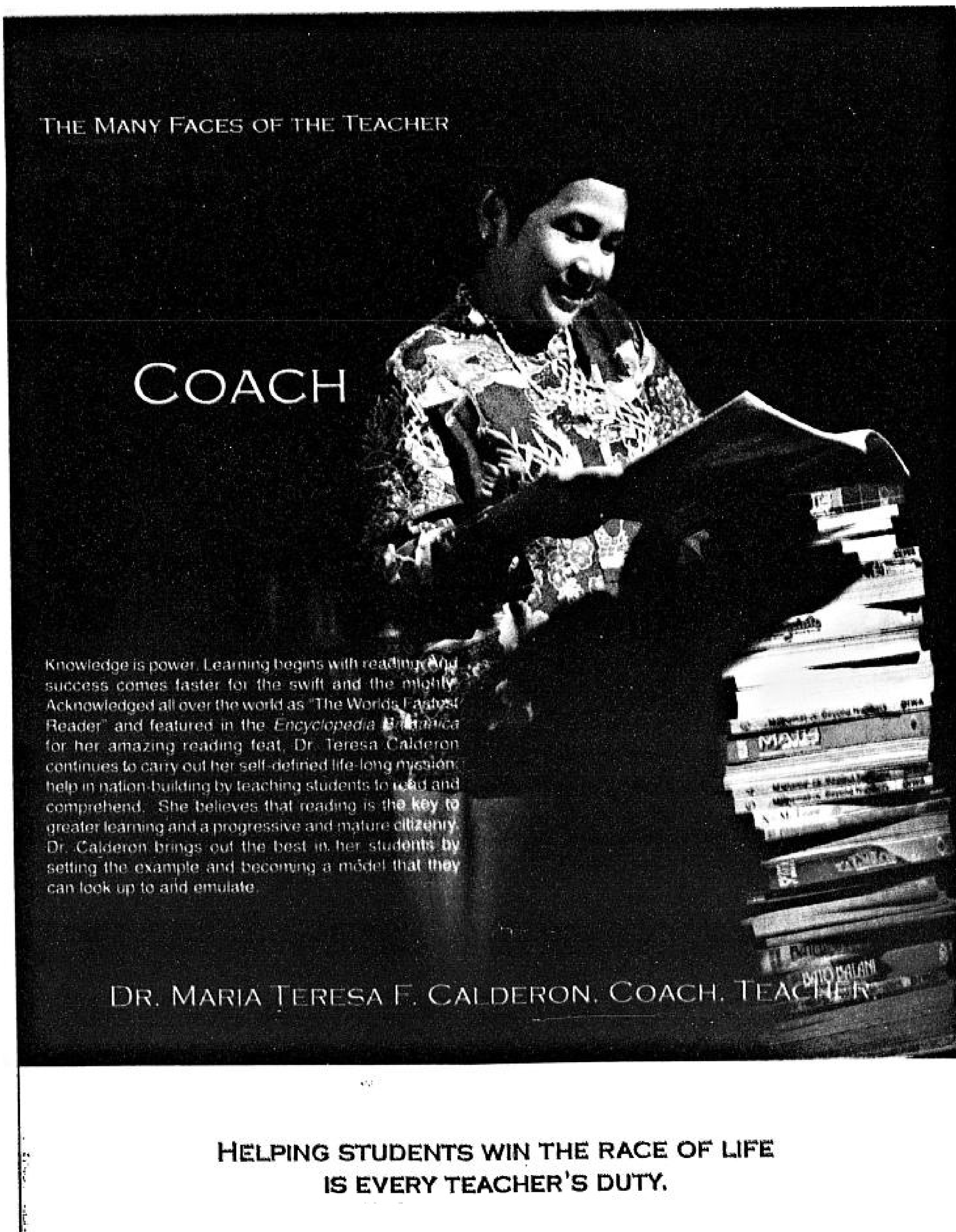
WELLINGTON—The United States is looking for a reason to act against Iran amid accusations Tehran is secretly developing atomic weapons, Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said in remarks published on Tuesday. The United Nations nuclear watchdog has been investigating Iran's nuclear program, which Tehran says is aimed solely at generating electricity rather than nuclear weapons. The US wants the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to report Tehran to the UN Security Council for what it says are violations of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "Nobody can deny our rights to have nuclear technology for peaceful purposes," the Dominion-Post newspaper quoted Kharrazi as saying during a visit to New Zealand, which holds a seat on the 18-member board of the IAEA. "Animosity has prevailed in the US for many years now and therefore they have been looking for excuses (to act against Iran)," said Kharrazi who leaves New Zealand on Tuesday after a two-day visit. *Reuters*

Indonesian cleric faces trial

JAKARTA—Indonesian Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir will face trial for terror attacks including a suicide bombing blast at a Jakarta hotel which killed 12 people last year, prosecutors and police said Tuesday. Prosecutors have approved a dossier filed against Bashir, who is accused of heading the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah network, paving the way for an indictment, said attorney general's office spokesperson Kemas Yahya Rachman. "Prosecutors have declared the file on Abu Bakar Bashir complete and now we're waiting for police to transfer the suspect's custody and material evidence to the prosecutors," he said. National police spokesperson Insp. General Paiman said Bashir would be charged using a tough antiterror law passed after the October 2002 Bali bombings which killed 202 people. The law carries a maximum death penalty. *AFP*

Sudan peace talks to resume

ABUJA—Sudan's warring government and rebel leaders were set to resume negotiations Tuesday, after studying an agenda for peace talks drawn up by the African Union overnight following a first day of discussions which underlined the deep divisions over how to proceed. Darfur province's rebel leadership was already warning that they would seek important changes to the the peace talks blueprint. The AU's chair, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, called the talks and invited senior officials from several African countries to mount a last ditch bid to head off a mounting humanitarian crisis in Darfur. *AFP*



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US forces increase pressure on rebels

NAJAF, Iraq—Plumes of black smoke rose above the embattled city of Najaf Tuesday after American warplanes bombed insurgent positions overnight and supporters of a radical cleric charged that shrapnel from a US attack had hit parts of the Imam Ali Shrine. The military denied the claim.

In Baghdad, assailants targeted the convoys of the interim government's ministers of environment and education in two separate bombings Tuesday, officials said. Neither of the ministers was hurt, but at least five people were reported killed.

In one attack, a car bomb exploded in the southern Baghdad neighborhood of Kadisea as Environment Minister Miskhat Moumin was passing through in a convoy, ministry spokesperson Dalal Ali said. Moumin escaped unharmed, Ali said.

Four people were killed and two others were injured in that blast, police and hospital officials said.

In a second attack around the same time in the western district of al-Khadra, a roadside bomb exploded as a convoy of vehicles was headed to pick up Education Minister Sami Mudhafar, the police said.

The education minister was not in the convoy at the time, the police brigadier said. The blast killed one of Mudhafar's bodyguards and wounded two others, he said.

On Monday, US infantrymen engaged in fierce battles with Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr's militants as tanks moved closer to the revered Imam Ali Shrine as the American military stepped up pressure on the insurgents to leave the holy site.

Later Monday, US warplanes bombed the area of the Old City, and fires lit up the night sky, witnesses said. Ahmed al-Shaibany, an aide to Sadr, said shrapnel from the attack hit the shrine's golden dome, one of its minarets and the compound's outer wall.

The US military denied damaging the shrine and said an air crew saw militants in the compound fire a rocket that clipped one of the walls and explode 10 yards outside.

"We are not doing anything that could have caused damage to the shrine," Marine Capt. Carrie Batson said.

There was no independent confirmation of damage to the shrine, but violence earlier Monday ripped a chunk out of the outer wall of the compound. Explosions throughout the day shook the Old City, which is a mix of streets and narrow, maze-like alleys at the heart of much of the fighting. streets and some were seen leaving Najaf. Militant medical officials said at least two insurgents were killed and four wounded.

Al-Hakim Hospital said two civilians were killed and two others injured, but more casualties were reported in the Old City and could not be reached by emergency workers, said hospital employee Hussein Hadi.

AP

Surrender or be wiped out

NAJAF, Iraq—Iraq's interim defense minister warned Shiite rebels besieged in Najaf's Imam Ali shrine to surrender or face an attack later on Tuesday that would "wipe them out."

"We are in the last hours. This evening, Iraqi forces will reach the doors of the shrine and control it and appeal to the Mehdi Army to throw down their weapons," Hazim al-Shalaan told a news conference at a US military base outside Najaf.

"If they do not, we will wipe them out."

Reuters

ARTPETRON

Lumang Ani, Bagong Sali

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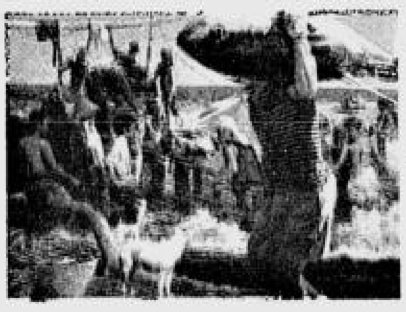
Watch out for ArtPetron 5.....

From left: Emmanuel Servito, Jose Pempe Ybañez, Darby Vincent Alcoseba, Orley Ypon, Florentino Impas, Jr. and Rochelle Cruz

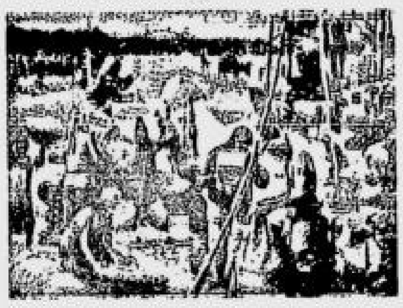
Winners

Oil

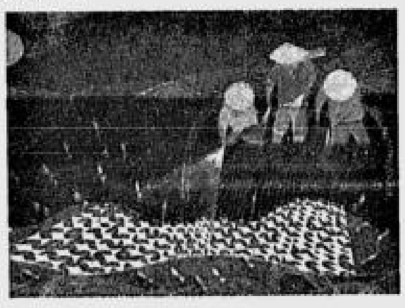
Pamaling
Oil - 91.44 cm x 121.92 cm
by Orley Ypon
Cebu Academy of Arts



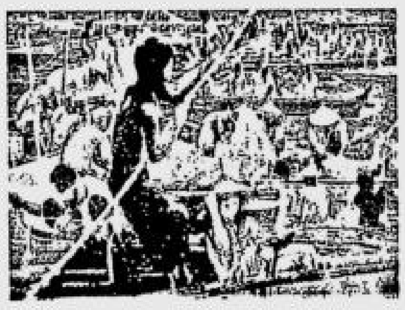
Abundang Ani
Oil - 91.44 cm x 121.92 cm
by Florentino Impas, Jr.
Cebu Academy of Arts



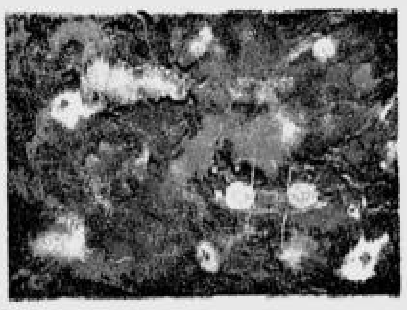
Night Catch
Oil - 60.96 cm x 121.92 cm
by Rochelle Cruz
UP Diliman



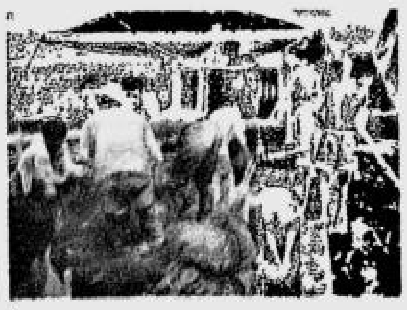
Watercolor



Kurantay
Watercolor - 71.12 cm x 96.52 cm
by Jose Pempe Ybañez
Cebu Academy of Arts

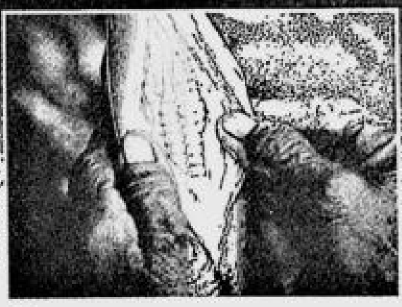


Lambat ng Kasaganahan
Watercolor - 74.93 cm x 100.33 cm
by Emmanuel Servito
UE Caloocan



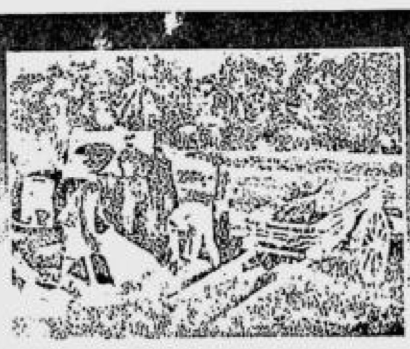
Buhay Dagat
Watercolor - 56 cm x 76 cm
by Darby Vincent Alcoseba
Central Visayas Integrated Arts Association

Winding the Shaft
by Tina Marie De Leon
New Era University



Mais
by Charles Buenconsejo
UP Cebu

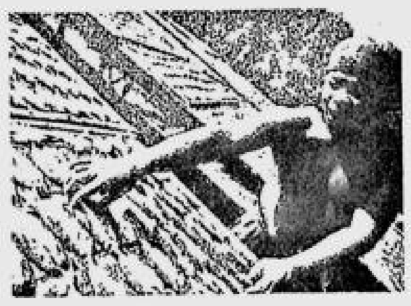
The Gathering
by Guijo Dueñas
Western Visayas State University



Zambales Palay
by Pacifico Jose, Jr.
Mapua Institute of Technology

From left: Pacifico Jose, Jr., Erdieleen Marilla, Charles Buenconsejo, Kym Sanchez, Guijo Dueñas and Tina Marie De Leon

Drying the Grains
by Erdieleen Marilla
New Era University



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OPINION

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Semantics

EDITORIAL

THE FIRST reaction of government was not reassuring. Faced with President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration that "we are already in the midst of a fiscal crisis and we have to face it squarely," members of her official family tried to soft-pedal the pronouncement. Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said we were headed for a fiscal crisis, but we are not exactly there—or not yet, anyway.

Focusing on these surface differences, however, is like watching medieval theologians debating how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. Prior to the President's Camp Crame announcement, a group of respected economists at the University of the Philippines came out with a sober paper detailing how the country could become an Argentina-style basket case in two to three years. Nothing the members of the President's Cabinet have said contradicts this. Indeed, their statements, while meant to reassure that we aren't quite a basket case yet, all emphasize the need to act now to prevent our country's economic collapse.

So this is, in fact, what the President has called for: action now, in order to head off a fiscal crisis wrecking what's left of the economy.

For her part, Ms Arroyo has asked that her financial team lay out the groundwork for declaring a "state of fiscal crisis," which is presumably the economic equivalent of declaring a state of emergency. This will, in theory, afford the President certain powers and greater latitude in juggling funds. Whether such a condition can be declared and used to provide the Palace with greater economic teeth, however, remains to be seen. The last time we had a government on its knees financially was in 1983, and we were a dictatorship then.

What is evident, however, is that while the administration seems to more or less know what needs to be done, it is far less obvious whether the Palace has the savvy and the will to get other people to do what needs to be done.

The image of a circular firing squad comes to mind. Everyone is concerned with the fiscal deficit, and they all want to do something about it. But the way they're going about it seems more calculated to do more harm than good.

The Palace wants more taxes, which may be necessary, but seems hardly inclined to take swift and hard steps to rein in corruption and the infamous "leaks" in the tax system. Congress doesn't want new taxes, but the best it can do at present is announce, on the part of the House, a possible—not even probable—pitiful reduction of the pork barrel by 25 percent. And not a peep from the Senate.

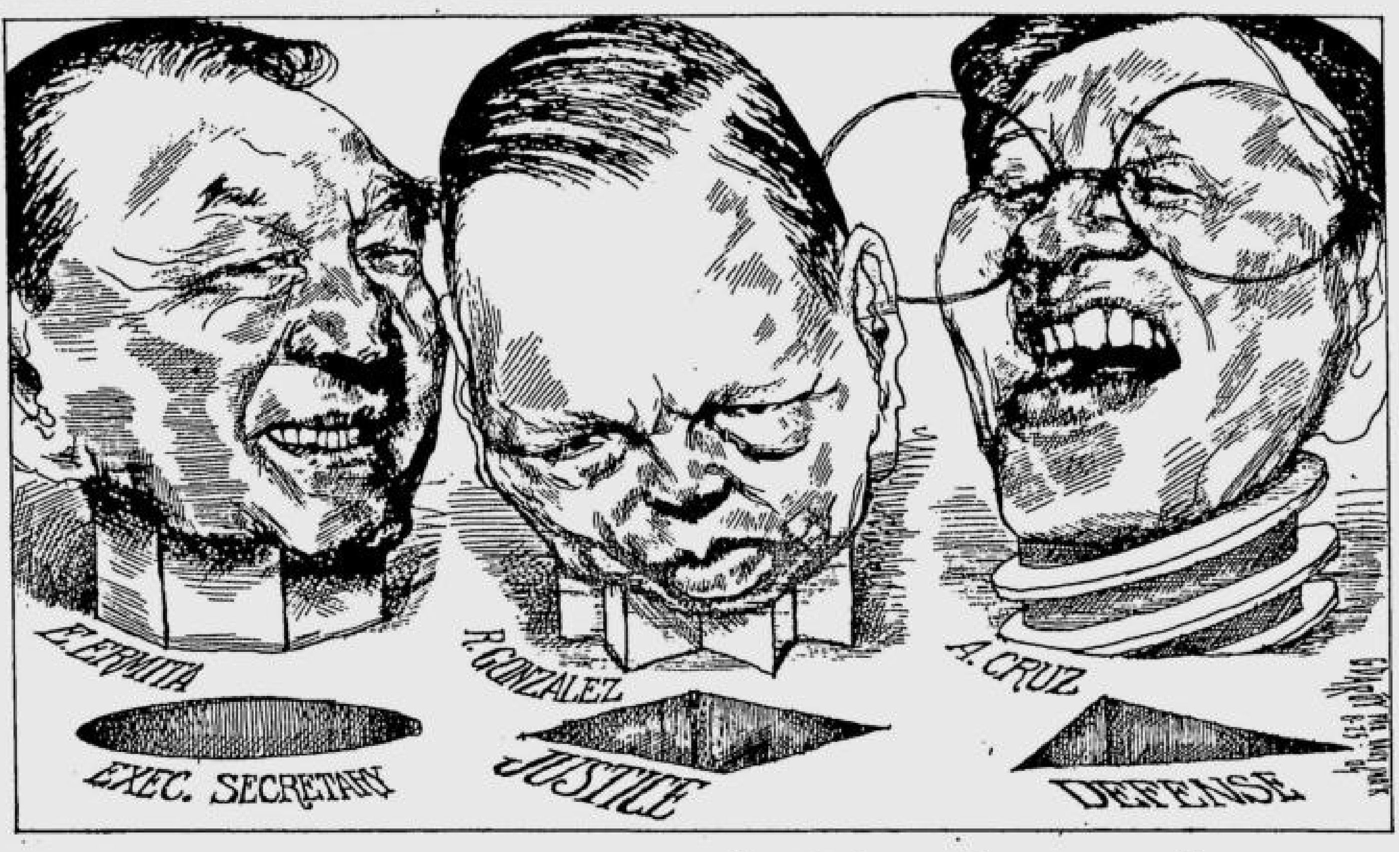
Local governments are raising a hue and cry about their revenue allotments being reduced by 30 percent, and yet we haven't seen either our major cities or provincial governments reining in the pre- and post-election spending sprees that occur by way of "beautification" projects that are unessential and downright extravagant.

We see the public and professionals up in arms about new taxes, yet unwilling to commit to paying their taxes properly, and doing what it takes to ensure that taxes collected are spent wisely. The public and professionals who are all upset over new taxes voted for big spenders, and too many Filipinos are abettors of corruption in government. As has so often been asked of businessmen and the public: would there be corruption if citizens didn't offer and pay bribes?

We point out these unpleasant facts because the fiscal crisis is not merely government's problem. It is everyone's problem. Everyone has a part to play, and it begins with the belt-tightening and sacrifice that gives, first of all, the citizenry the moral ascendancy to demand the same of government.

In the end, we get the government we deserve. We have heard this often, and for all the endless repeating, it's true. While this country remains a democracy, the bottom line of democracy should be applied to the bottom line of the government: fiscal reforms require fiscal responsibility and sacrifice, all of which can only be undertaken if there is public support.

And so every citizen must take pause to ask: If the time has come to stop bribing and turning a blind eye to corruption, can we do it? If government asks us to sacrifice, what sacrifices will those in government make, and most of all, what are we prepared to do about it? We must begin by looking at the officials next in line for judgment at the polls: our barangays. We have until next year to clean them up. Can we?



FVR misses point of Miriam's speech

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FORMER PRESIDENT Fidel V. Ramos hit back at Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago for exposing the illegality of the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project that he approved and implemented during his term. Ramos had authorized that R-2 Builders, the developer, be paid with part of the land it reclaimed for the National Housing Authority, which Santiago said was illegal and unconstitutional. But Santiago, retorted Ramos in a press conference last Saturday, did the same thing—that is, concur in the payment to the developer of part of the reclaimed land in other reclamation projects—when she was a director of the Public Estates Authority (PEA).

Ramos is wrong. Santiago (and former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, who had earlier filed a petition with the Supreme Court to annul the contract) is right. There's a difference between the NHA and PEA reclamation contracts. The PEA is the only agency authorized by law to reclaim land; the NHA is not. The NHA cannot legally enter into a contract with R-2 Builders to reclaim land, hence the Smokey Mountain reclamation project is illegal.

Moreover, a condition that Ramos himself imposed was that the development would be "at no cost to the government." R-2 Builders was to shoulder all the costs. Yet when the construction firm allegedly ran out of funds, Ramos called to Malacañang the heads of a number of government financial institutions, including the trustees of trust funds owned by their members, like the Social Security System (SSS) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), and told them to invest in the project. Now that the project has been terminated, these GFIs stand to lose the more than P3 billion they invested in the project.

The SSS contributed the biggest amount (more than P1 billion). Now it wants to increase premiums of members because it is going bankrupt. It is going to make its members pay for the losses it incurred because of its bad investments.

At the same time, the SSS does not want to reduce the excessive salaries and allowances and other perks of its executives to save on funds. Do you know that while retirees are getting a pittance in retirement benefits, high-ranking SSS executives get more than P100,000 a month?

* * *

Instead of terminating the contract with R-2 Builders for the latter's failure to finish the project, Ramos had authorized the payment of more funds and still gave part of the reclaimed land to R-2.

The contract was finally terminated last year under the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, but R-2 Builders was still paid P250 million and a three-hectare piece of land.

And, surprise, surprise, the same Arroyo administration, which is on the verge of declaring a "fiscal crisis" because of a ballooning budget deficit it can't control, quietly reinstated the contract and released another P480 million to continue the project, which has been at a standstill since 1998.

What's going on here?

* * *

By the way, the chief of staff of Santiago wrote a reaction to the Aug. 16 column which began: "Although Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago didn't mention former Solicitor General Frank Chavez even once, her exposé on the Smokey Mountain Development Project is identical to his petition to annul the project filed Aug. 5 with the Supreme Court." Santiago did mention him, she said, and enclosed a copy of her speech.

Well, she really did, in the third to the last paragraph which read:

"Last Aug. 5, I learned from a news item that a case was filed in the Supreme Court, Chavez vs. NHA, Reghis Romero and the three corporations, praying the Court to declare that the Project and all agreements related to it are null and void, for being unconstitutional."

That was all.

* * *

But Santiago did not fail to link former Manila Mayor Fred Lim in the illegal contract.

An angry Senator Lim told the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday that when they were called to Malacañang, they were not told the details of the project. He was there only as mayor of Manila because the Smokey Mountain garbage dump, although belonging to the national government, was under the jurisdiction of Manila. Lim said he was told only that the dump would be developed and homes built for the scavengers.

"Who is the mayor who will not agree to that?" he asked. He did not attend other meetings or sign anything, he said.

* * *

Now for the good news. Here is a true story of the triumph of truth and justice, which is a rare occurrence nowadays. This is a case similar to that of Gov. Grace Padaca of Isabela who unseated the well-entrenched Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. in the last elections.

In the town of Bocaue, Bulacan, reelectionist Mayor Eduardo Villannueva, favorite son of presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva of Jesus is Lord fame, was defeated by an unknown, unschooled and poor but popular barrio farmer in fair, clean and honest elections. The giant-killer, by the name of Serafin de la Cruz, was already proclaimed winner by the Commission on Elections but was not allowed to assume office because of a temporary restraining order issued by Judge Wilfredo T. Nieves of RTC 84. An election protest had been filed by Villanueva who alleged that De la Cruz resorted to fraud and vote buying.

A dirt poor farmer buying votes?

During the hearings, De la Cruz's lawyer argued that the RTC had no jurisdiction over the case as it belonged only to the Comelec. The judge lifted the TRO and now De la Cruz is the new mayor of Bocaue. De la Cruz was defended by lawyer Jesus I. Santos, the lawyer of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in the Jose Pidal case.

Much ado about power

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IGNACIO Bunye said he was speaking for his boss in relaying to Forbes Magazine her thanks for including her on its list of the Most Powerful Women in the World. She felt it was a signal honor, he said, Forbes being such a prestigious magazine.

Frankly, I can't understand why anyone should be exhilarated by it. Forbes is prestigious only to a small portion of the world's population that continues to believe in superpowers, multinationals and WTO-type globalization (which is not the only globalization there is). It is the viewpoint of big business, the kind of viewpoint that in the 1970s and 1980s extolled America's support for the tyrants of Asia, Africa and Latin America as being good for business. Which they were: the tyrants assured the wellbeing of foreign investors with an army of cutthroats, led by American-trained "special forces," and payment in full of the loans being pressed on them by the petrodollar-laden Western banks.

If I recall right, Imelda Marcos was hailed by Forbes-type publications at the time as one of the most powerful persons, man or woman, in the world. Which she was: anyone who could cause white sand from Australia to be airlifted to Olot to turn the beach there into a gleaming paradise while a great many children in nearby Samar grew white as a sheet from hunger would have to be very powerful. "Iron Butterfly" was the epithet given her, which had nothing to do with the rock band by that name but with her penchant for wearing Pitoy-Moreno ternos that had butterfly sleeves. It was a, well, powerful image of power that stuck for a while until it was replaced by the not very powerful image of her being a shoe collector, which came from the 2,000 or so pairs of shoes that were found in her bedroom at the height of the Edsa revolt. Some people have skeletons in their closets, others have shoes.

The company GMA keeps in Forbes' current crop of Most Powerful Women is a mixed one. Occupying No. 1 position is Condoleezza Rice, whose rise to become George W. Bush's most trusted adviser after enduring racial discrimination during her childhood in Alabama, may make for fascinating reading, but who has obviously not learned her childhood lessons well enough not to wish to inflict the same ordeal on the other peoples of the world. If you watched her testimony in the US Congress about how Bush dealt with the intelligence provided by the FBI on an impending terrorist attack on America, which became 9/11, you know she is capable of the most duplicitous language known to man—or woman. If not outright lying, something she has in common with GMA. Not since Henry Kissinger has someone applied inordinate amounts of brain power to serve a boss that absolutely sucked.

There are some sympathetic figures in Forbes' list. Chief of them is Sonia Gandhi, who is a Gandhi only by marriage and who caused a stir last May by declining the position of prime minister after her party won in the elections. She turned the reins of government instead to Sikh economist Manmohan Singh. That is definitely not something she has in common with GMA. But trust Forbes to find a perverted motive in this: "Gandhi gets to reign over her beloved country without having to take responsibility for any mistakes the government might make." Is it so inconceivable that a leader will willingly give up power for the good of her country, or out of the recognition somebody else will be better able to wield it? Is the normal, and admirable, behavior the kind GMA shows?

The citation for GMA herself, who stands at 9th place, further shows Forbes' conservative bias. "By the time she became president of the Philippines in 2001, Arroyo was already ensconced in her country's power elite....Today, Arroyo is facing tough criticism for her recent decision to pull her troops out of Iraq in order to obtain the release of one of her citizens who had been kidnapped by terrorists there, which critics say will lead to more kidnappings."

Being ensconced in a country's power elite does not naturally signify boundless vision, it can merely represent vaulting ambition. It does in GMA's case. As to the "tough criticism" for pulling out the Philippine troops from Iraq, that is merely coming from people like the Forbes editors and their favorite White House occupants. If any "tough criticism" has been leveled at GMA, and deservedly so, it is only for joining Bush's war on Iraq to begin with. That openly invited mayhem on Filipinos in the Gulf.

What all of this suggests is that power by itself means nothing. Or it means good or bad, positive or negative, the building of new worlds or their destruction, depending on how it is used. The most powerful person on earth is easily George W. Bush. He has in his possession weapons that can destroy the planet several times over. But he has used his power only to dupe and intimidate his countrymen and to try to cow others to submission. Nobody else can top him in Forbes' list of most powerful people on earth. But what the hell does that prove?

GMA may be the 9th most powerful woman in the world by Forbes' reckoning, yet all she has done is use her power to acquire more power—she has shown unswerving dedication to that from Day One. And not quite incidentally more money, under the account of one Jose Pidal. History at least shows that in the end the most powerful people on earth have been those without power, or who chose to give it up only to succeed in wielding it as few have ever done. Mahatma Gandhi was one of them, Mother Teresa was another, Martin Luther King was still another.

There is much wisdom in two adages. The first says that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. The second says that the meek shall inherit the earth.

Belgian beer

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

BRUSSELS—It's a pleasant Sunday afternoon and my traveling companions, Peter Payoyo and his wife Aurora Galindo, and I started out from The Hague stopping for a breather in Antwerp in northern Belgium. This is quite a treat because our driver, Peter, is certainly high class. A former faculty member of the University of the Philippines College of Law, he later took a master's and doctor's degree in law at Dalhousie University in Canada. He now works with a non-profit organization involving thousands of Filipino seafarers in Rotterdam, the biggest port in the world. Aurora has been in the Netherlands since the late 1970s and was on the faculty of the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague for many years.

We have traversed some of the territory comprising what is often referred to as Benelux (for Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg). They are also known as the "Low Countries" although in its strict sense, the term applies only to Belgium and the Netherlands, especially the latter where large areas near the North Sea are below sea level. They are protected from flooding by sand dunes, dikes and constant pumping.

The Benelux countries are small ones but are highly developed. Their economic life is marked by intensive developments in agriculture, industry and trade, greatly aided by the fact that they have the world's three major port cities within a distance of just 180 km. These are Rotterdam and Amsterdam in the Netherlands and Antwerp in Belgium.

As we stopped in Antwerp, Belgium's primary port city located 80 km up the Scheldt River, our conversation drifted from the charming scenery to beer. Yes, beer, and I don't mean San Miguel. The inescapable fact is that while you are in Belgium, you can drink yourself to death with 150 brands of Belgian beer. You can have lambic ale, abbey and trappist ale, sour ale, brown ale, strong golden ale, amber ale, witbier, saison, pilsner, or so-called "specialty beers." It is simply amazing. Light, golden, medium, dark, strong—name it and it will materialize from the counters of this country built by beer.

Drinking beer in the public square also comes in style. I mindlessly ordered what I thought would be just right—not too light like American beer and not too strong like German beer. The waiter promptly served up Grimbergen, in a goblet shaped like the Holy Grail and marked Grimbergen in attractive letters surrounded by a coat of arms. The waiter must have found my questions annoying, like where it was made. "In a brewery, of course," he said, "in Grimbergen." Where it's made is also the name of the beer. I asked him next if I could buy the goblet as a souvenir, and he said no, I'd have to go down the street to buy one.

My traveling companions did not share my interest, intellectual or otherwise, in Belgian beer. Not Peter since he was driving and not Aurora, who doesn't drink beer. I was impressed to learn that there are only six Trappist breweries in the world and they are all in Belgium. Between the six abbeys, they brew about 20 beers, all "top-fermenting" (whatever that means).

Now we are in Brussels and like many capital cities in the world, it is a bit formal and elegant. After all, it's not only the capital of Belgium, it's also the "administrative capital" of the European Union (EU). Understanding the EU is a challenge, and as Peter says, "No one seems to understand it, but it works."

In addition to the EU, formerly the European Community, there's a whole slew of institutions linked to world politics. There's the European Economic Community (EEC), more popularly known as the Common Market; the European Economic Area; the European Free Trade Association; and the European Parliament. Space will allow us only to take a glimpse at the European Union.

The EU is a typical example of an IGO (intergovernmental organization) which is a formal institution that only has states as members. They are formalized by an administrative structure usually created by a treaty. The EU has a long history born out of the Cold War. In 1946, Winston Churchill invoked the need for a "United States of Europe," and this was followed by the United Europe Movement in 1947. The Council of Europe, composed of France, Great Britain, Belgium, Luxembourg , followed in 1949. Two years later, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was founded, and in 1957, the European Economic Community (EEC) was established, along with the European Atomic Energy Commission (Euratom). In 1967, EEC, ECSC, and Euratom were merged into the European Community, which became the European Union in 1984.

This was followed by a historic development in 2002 when all existing national currencies and coins in the EU countries ceased to be valid and were replaced with the euro. At this point, the euro is stronger than the US dollar.

It is generally agreed that the EU experiment operating out of Brussels has succeeded remarkably in the past 50 years, and that an enduring peace has been built among the member countries. It is now swamped with membership requests from former socialist or communist countries in Europe.

As we head back to the Netherlands, Peter, Aurora and I wonder whether something like this could be replicated in Asia. Asean has emerged as a major collective voice in Southeast Asia, but its future as a viable mechanism for regional integration still has to be demonstrated.

It was too late to stop in another city for another round of Belgian beer.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

Where do you get your FP information?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF you ever gave a thought to why so few Filipino men opt for a vasectomy, this piece of information might explain things.

Respondents to "Project Dynasty," a research study on Filipinos' knowledge of and attitudes toward family planning, were asked what adverse effects they thought would be encountered when using particular methods. Asked about vasectomy, many respondents said they believed "part of the man's testicles are cut off" as part of the procedure. Others thought it involved "tying the testicles together," so it would hurt (of course!), while others thought "the man loses his manhood because his penis is cut off."

Well, if the respondents really believed all these folk tales, who could blame men for shunning the procedure?

Even more amusing are the misconceptions regarding ligation, in which a woman's fallopian tubes are cut or tied. After ligation, some respondents believed, "the woman can turn into a maniac because there is nothing to stop her from being promiscuous." Ligation is also "not good for women with asthma," some said, while others said they heard the procedure "could cause weight loss, loss of libido, or pus." Not mentioned in the study, but also often heard, is the idea that after ligation a woman could no longer do physically demanding work like lifting pails of water or doing the laundry. Perhaps this stems from the advice they're given after the procedure to take it easy during the first few days, but of course afterwards, there's no reason they can't resume their normal activities.

But it should be pointed out that ligation is a far more complex and risky procedure than vasectomy, especially non-scalpel vasectomy, a non-invasive procedure in which a man's tubes are just hooked out from under the skin and then cut or sutured to close them. It's an outpatient procedure that usually takes only 10 minutes, requires local anesthesia with the patient needing nothing more than a band-aid afterwards.

* * *

WHY do such misconceptions continue to spread and be believed, despite massive information campaigns and sex education classes?

One significant factor is the choice of persons that Filipinos go to for family planning advice. Teenagers, "Project Dynasty" found, usually learn about family planning in school, not from qualified and knowledgeable sources, but from their peers, "who may be just as clueless as they are about the subject." The study also found that young men usually practice their first method (typically, a condom) during their first sexual experience, viewed as a rite of passage and usually with the support of friends or *barkada*.

Likewise, older single males rely on male friends for advice and sometimes even their supply of contraceptives. Those whose parents have or are using family planning, though, tend to know more, seeing a packet of pills or condoms around the house and asking their parents about these.

Married couples obtained family planning information from neighbors, relatives and friends, but as the study observed, "while these sources may be users themselves, they may not have the clinical experience to explain the methods properly and, most important, to allay the couples' fear of side effects."

* * *

IN THEORY at least local health centers serve as the primary source of information on family planning, with the service providers providing not just information but also counseling, advice and reassurance.

But as the study points out, the fact that so many Filipinos still rely on relatives and friends for advice "suggests that much work needs to be done...to bring in clients to health centers and make them listen to the trained service providers for correct information."

Asked what factors might prevent or discourage them from visiting a health center, the respondents mentioned the distance of the center from their residence. If it's too far from home, then it might necessitate spending for transportation or taking a day off from work. If too near, then there's the possibility of loss of privacy, since the workers at the center may know them personally or be too near a barangay hall "where it is difficult to have a private conversation with the service provider."

Respondents also complained that some service providers do not respect the women's need for privacy, asking intimate questions even in the presence of other people. When a client asks "too many" questions, they confided, some workers would even get impatient, while others are not above berating clients for getting pregnant again or for complaining about a previously recommended method. Also a matter of concern was the personnel's propensity for gossiping about their clients.

Proving that "provider bias" is indeed a concern, respondents also reported that some workers would discourage clients from trying a method that they (the clients) prefer, such as denying ligation to a woman because she is deemed too young or had "just" a few children.

* * *

ANOTHER reason cited for avoiding a health center was the "stigma attached to single females who are sexually active and who seek advice" on contraception.

Other respondents cited reasons like being too lazy to make the trip, doubts about the health center personnel's abilities, too shy to approach strangers for advice, husband doesn't like his wife going around asking questions about family planning, and male partners feeling only women should go to a health center.

Thus, the study recommended that health center personnel should develop and strengthen their communication skills, rearrange the physical layout of the center to assure clients of privacy, ensure an ample supply of contraceptives, and prepare their replies to people's misconceptions about family planning.

Economic life in Manila in the 1880s

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ALL schoolchildren who are forced to read Rizal's "El Filibusterismo" know that the novel opens with a reunion of selected "Noli Me Tangere" characters on a steamer moving through the Pasig River. Rizal describes scenes inside and outside the steamer called "Vapor Tabo" because of its round shape.

When I started work on the manuscript of the "Fili" over a decade ago, I noted that the same steamer is called Batea. Where did Rizal get this name and why did he change it to Tabo?

I found the answer in the travel section of the 1881 pocket guide to Manila by Juan P. Gutierrez-Gay, "Manila en el bolsillo." Here we find a list of 21 steamers to Singapore, four steamers that plied the Manila-Cavite route (Manila, Isabel, Isabel II and Filipino) and three steamers that traveled from Manila to Laguna (Bulacan, Lipa and Batea).

While writing the "Fili," Rizal used the name of a real steamer he probably took on trips from Laguna to Manila, but when the novel was printed the steamer's name changed from Batea to Tabo. This is definitely useless information that will go into my annotated edition of the "Fili," but then the rest of the data in "Manila en el bolsillo" helps us reconstruct life in the capital in the last decades of the Spanish period.

Filipino travelers today have to apply for visas in different embassies usually located in Makati. In 1881, most of the consulates were located outside Intramuros. Consuls did more than issue visas in those days when Filipinos were not as mobile as we are today: they were in town to protect their nationals and their national interests.

What struck me was that the different consuls did not live in property bought or leased by their governments. Most lived or held office in a trading house. English Consul G.H. Honey was in Smith and Co. US Consul Ed Young in Peele, Hubbell and Co. shared office space with the consul of Sweden and Norway, R. Allen-Lane. German Consul Peter Frans Kamperman was in Labhart and Co. Belgian Consul J. Ph. Hens, who also doubled as the Dutch consul, held office in G. Van Polonen and Co. Swiss Consul C.A. Keller was in Lutz and Co.

Not all shared space in a trading firm. French Consul Ernest Crampon held office in a house around the plaza of Santa Ana in Sampaloc. Portuguese Consul Antonio Hidalgo, like Mexican Consul Evaristo Batalle Hernandez, preferred the medieval air of Intramuros. Russian Consul Griswool Heron was in the plaza of Anda in Sta. Cruz, while Brazilian Consul D.C. Bellamy had no listed address.

The above list alone indicates the economic interest of various countries in the Philippines, and one wonders why no consul or representative is listed for China or Japan.

"Manila en el bolsillo" is not only useful for tourist information but more as a primary source for Philippine economic history. Only three banks are listed: Banco Español Filipino (now Bank of the Philippine Islands) was located at No. 30 Cabildo, Intramuros, while its two English competitors were outside the walls. The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China (today's Standard Chartered?) was temporarily in the trading firm of Smith and Bell and Company. The Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp. was in Peele, Hubbell and Co.

Aside from transactions with London, Paris, Hamburg, Bremen, Hong Kong, Emuy, Singapore and Spain, the English banks had telegraph service that could be used in urgent cases to remit funds to and from London. Thus, contrary to popular belief, Manila was not exactly an economic backwater at the time.

Economic interest can also be gauged from the names of the various foreign companies with offices in Manila. There were so many insurance companies for boats and fire, that reflects the main concerns of the time. For maritime insurance you could go to Aldecoa and Co., Sociedad de Seguros Maritimos Mutuos de Manila, Java Sea and Fire Insurance Co., Globe Marine Insurance Co., Canton Insurance Co., Societe Francaise de Prets a la Grosse de Paris, Holliday Wise and Co., Italian Lloyd, Lloyd Andaluz, Reheinish Westhal Lloyd and German Lloyd (todays Lloyd's of London?), Liverpool Underwriters Association, Merchant Shipping and Underwriters Association of Melbourne, Schweiz Transport Versicherungs Gesellscaft, Zurich and many more. For fire insurance, there were 46 companies listed and probably more that didn't advertise in the pocket guide to Manila. If we haven't changed very much in the past century, I wouldn't be surprised if there were many fly-by-night insurance firms even then.

Speaking of fire, there was a lot in Manila particularly in areas where houses were made of nipa. All it needed was summer heat or a lighted cigarette thrown in the right place to burn an entire district down. This is why people in bigger homes were encouraged to use tile instead of nipa for roofing, but during earthquakes people also got killed by falling bricks. Thus, people shifted to galvanized iron sheets that absorbed heat and, of course, flew off during typhoons.

Banana trees were planted in between nipa huts because they were believed to retard fire. In the worst-case scenario, people were advised to throw banana trunks into the flames to douse the fire. If all else failed, they were advised to get insurance.

Life was indeed so simple in the 19th century.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Philosophy and animal welfare

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

AREN'T animals created to serve humans, to help out with work, to provide food, to become experimental animals so we can find new medicines? What do you do when your biology teacher requires dissection of live animals? Isn't animal welfare a luxury, applicable only to developed countries?

Those were some of the questions asked at a lecture last week sponsored by the philosophy department of UP Diliman. The lecture was part of a new program on bioethics established by the UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy and College of Medicine. As part of this program, UP has been inviting international experts to lecture, often raising some very provocative questions that apply to many aspects of our daily lives.

Bioethics is a field within a discipline that is particularly difficult because it asks questions about the very core of being human: not just of doing good, but also of avoiding harm and of being just and fair. In bioethics, these principles are put to most difficult real-world tests with issues such as euthanasia, abortion and, something not many people know, animal welfare.

Animal rights?

The latest visiting lecturer in UP's bioethics program was Prof. Udo Schuklenk of the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, who gave several lectures. I was only able to catch one, which was on the use of animals in medical experiments.

It was a fascinating lecture with Schuklenk reviewing, in an hour and a half, the various philosophical arguments used to tackle the use of animals in experiments, ranging from research on life-saving drugs to those involving cosmetics. I thought of sharing some of the lecture in the hope that our schools will take up this issue since many of our schools do conduct these experiments, from the dissection of frogs in general biology classes to the use of animals in veterinary schools to practice surgery. Many of these procedures do involve suffering and death for the animals.

Those who say animal experimentation is permissible argue that humans have greater value than animals because the latter are unable to think or to reason. To use humans to test for toxicity would be unthinkable because humans have a greater value.

Schuklenk mentioned John Rawls, a philosopher who wrote that morality (and ethics) is there only for beings who can reciprocate. Only moral persons—people who can conceive "good" and have a sense of justice—would have moral rights.

Rawls' argument becomes problematic when you think of the millions of humans who can't think—infants, for example, or people with Alzheimer's—yet most of us would consider it unacceptable to use them for experiments.

A way out of this dilemma comes from Tom Regan, another philosopher, who argues that all beings with a "subject-of-a-life" have inherent value, have absolute rights. What he means here are animals that value their own life in the sense of trying to survive, and resisting harm.

But can they suffer?

Schuklenk says this animal rights argument is problematic because it is so absolute. He is more inclined to a utilitarian view popularized by a contemporary philosopher, Peter Singer, but which goes back to the philosopher Jeremy Bentham. In 1781, Bentham wrote, rather prophetically, in his "Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation," that someday humans would have to consider the possibilities of animals acquiring rights. He also pointed out that the basis for looking into these rights is not whether animals can reason, but whether they suffer or not. Any sentient being needs to be protected from suffering.

Schuklenk explained that limited "intelligence" and "reasoning" in animals may in fact be an even more compelling reason for being more conscious about possible suffering. He used the dentist as an example: when we go for dental work, many of us are terrified by the prospects of the drill, but our fears are tempered by our ability to reason, knowing that the pain will be temporary and that life will be so much more bearable afterwards. An animal's terror with the drill would be different, probably seeing the procedure as something that would kill it.

Does this view exclude all possibilities of experimentation? Not necessarily. Schuklenk pointed out that as early as 1831, the British physiologist Marshall Hall already suggested conditions for animal experimentation, urging scientists to avoid unnecessary use of animals in the experiments.

The guidelines Hall gave are still applicable today, with many educational institutions now looking into possibilities of reducing, if not eliminating animal suffering. The dissection of live frogs, for example, is now disappearing, with the help of computer software that allows "virtual" dissection. For medical and veterinary schools, there are now plastic and fiberglass animal models to help them pick up clinical skills.

The science of the possible

Hearing about Bentham's and Hall's 18th and 19th century writings struck me because it meant that the Western scientific community was, quite early, already looking into issues of animal welfare, belying claims that these issues are luxuries that only affluent countries can afford.

Listening to Schuklenk also reminded me that philosophy forms the basis of all of the sciences. It is philosophy that allows, even goads us, to explore alternatives and question many age-old assumptions. Note how our cruelty to animals is sometimes based on a Judaeo-Christian outlook: we are taught that only humans have souls (i.e., only humans "reason") and animals don't, so we need not worry about their lives. They were "made" to serve us, to be eaten, to be used in experiments.

That is not a universal outlook. Religions such as Hinduism and Buddhism look at animals as having their own consciousness, and teach respect for all forms of life.

Ultimately though, it is individuals who have to make ethical decisions. There are Buddhists who see humans as having a "right" to use animals for food. On the other hand, you have Christians who may opt to go vegan, avoiding not just animal meat but all products derived from animals, including leather shoes.

Raimond Gaita, an Australian professor of moral philosophy at the Australian Catholic University, has a book entitled "The Philosopher's Dog," reflecting on animals, including the dogs that have been part of his life. He quotes extensively from other philosophers, as well as from literary works that have featured animals, as he tries to answer some of the questions raised at Schulenk's talk: Why do we care more for some animals than others? Why are we so intent on finding out if animals have thoughts, feelings?

We have co-evolved with many animal species and maybe this is why we think so often about them. All said, this philosophizing probably boils down to a hope that in understanding our relationships with animals, it may be easier for us to understand ourselves and our own existence.

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OPINION

Stigma should be on exploiters, not on prostitution victims

NOTHING is new about the recent revelations on "escort services" as a front for prostitution. The fact is, for a long, long time, politicians have been glossing over the issue on prostitution precisely because they are among the "buyers" of women and children. Legislative inquiries more often than not, only end up with more questions—sensational as they are—as to the identities of clients, without delving deeper into the heart of the problem.

Media, on the other hand, generally lack the sensibilities to see the problem in the context within which it thrives—women in the grip of poverty, the assignment of sexual roles to men as procurers and to women as sexual providers, the presumed privilege of men to use women's bodies. Traditional coverage even tend to glamorize the lives of prostitutes but totally overlook the string of violations on the rights of prostituted persons. Media have completely neglected to show that prostitution is a system in which women and children are sold like commodities and abused and treated like lesser human beings. And that indeed, the sale of bodies takes many forms and fronts—*akyat-barko*, caddy services, shine-girls and more.

And the public continues to look at the victims of prostitution with stigma—seeing them only as willing participants who enjoy and profit from the act, while missing out altogether their real stories and the fact that the other parties to the act profit from this exploitation of women and children.

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific, a network of prostitution victim-survivors and NGOs helping women in prostitution, takes this opportunity to invite the public to look deeper into the problem of prostitution. We call on the people to shift the stigma away from the victims and direct it toward those who exploit them. We call for the passage of the Anti-Prostitution Act and the repeal of Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code that continues to criminalize the victims, while letting pimps and buyers of prostitutes walk free. The anti-prostitution bill provides for the protection of prostitution victims, the prosecution of all those who exploit them, and the creation of alternative means of livelihood for them.

It's high time for our lawmakers and the general public to address the root causes of prostitution—gender, economic and political inequality—and act against this system of exploitation.

Pass the Anti-Prostitution Bill!

Penalize the prostitution fronts, pimps and buyers!

Protect the victim-survivors of prostitution!

—CHARRIE M. CALALANG,
Information officer,
Coalition Against Trafficking
in Women-Asia Pacific, Suite 308,
Sterten Place Condominium,
116 Maginhawa St.,
Teachers Village East,
Diliman, Quezon City

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PHILIPPINE LETTERS DAILY INQUIRER

Criminals have abdicated their parental rights

REGARDING the article titled "Minors now banned from Bilibid prisons," (PDI, 7/9/04) I totally agree with the officials of the National Bilibid Prisons. However, I do not agree that criminals still have parental rights. They never gave any importance to their parenthood before they committed their crime. So what's the beef?

Actually, the officials are still quite humane as they ban only children below 18 years old. I believe it's about time the government made productive use of these criminals. If these people are busy in government projects, they will have less time to think of doing useless, evil deeds. Their productivity could also reduce government expenditures.

I hope to hear good news from prisons, about economically productive inmates, in the future.

—ED BAUTISTA,
Florida, USA

Kindergarten lessons for our leaders

THE APATHY shown by the Filipino majority to the country's impending fiscal crisis is not as alarming as the ignorance of our leaders.

GMA promised to solve the crisis at the end of her term by creating millions of jobs and putting a computer in every classroom. Not even George Bush, whose country enjoys an almost limitless credit line from China's banks, promised to solve his country's bugdet deficit. Germany's Agenda 2010 does not commit to provide even a thousand more jobs.

And a computer in every classroom? That should go to the Guinness record for the biggest joke! Students have no classrooms and thousands of classrooms do not have access to potable water and electricity!

To solve our economic crisis, we have to have leaders who can think like those UP economics professors who warned of a financial crash in two years. If that is too much to dream about, how about kindergarten lessons for our politicians (e.g., returning what does not belong to you, etc.)? And basic math lessons, too—like, reducing the pork barrel because there can neither be justice nor justification in allotting to a congressman P100 million in infrastructure budget to be disposed of at his/her discretion; and putting a stop to the holding of department parties in five-star hotels.

These are lessons our leaders and government workers should learn. I bet not even 10 percent of our senators and congressmen would read and understand the report of the UP professors. Out of the 10 percent, who would have the courage to make the first move, that is, give up half of his pork barrel?

The impending financial collapse is only the offshoot of the country's moral collapse—absence of accountability and such other values that our leaders did not learn in kindergarten.

—HELEN GANTERT,
helengantert@yahoo.com

Right way to raise Philippine flag

DURING THE FLAG-RAISING ceremony preceding the Sunday Mass on July 18, 2004 at the Liwasang Aurora, Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City, the flag was raised slowly such that it reached the top of the flagpole at the sound of the last note of the "Lupang Hinirang." It was a beautiful sight but it was not in accordance with the law.

Please help spread the information that Section 21 of Republic Act No. 8491, Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines, provides the following procedure for the conduct of the flag ceremony: "The assembly shall sing the Philippine national anthem, accompanied by a band, if available, and at the first note, the flag shall be raised briskly."

—FRANCISCO T. SAN MIGUEL,
Paraiso, Barangay Maybangkal,
Morong, Rizal 1960

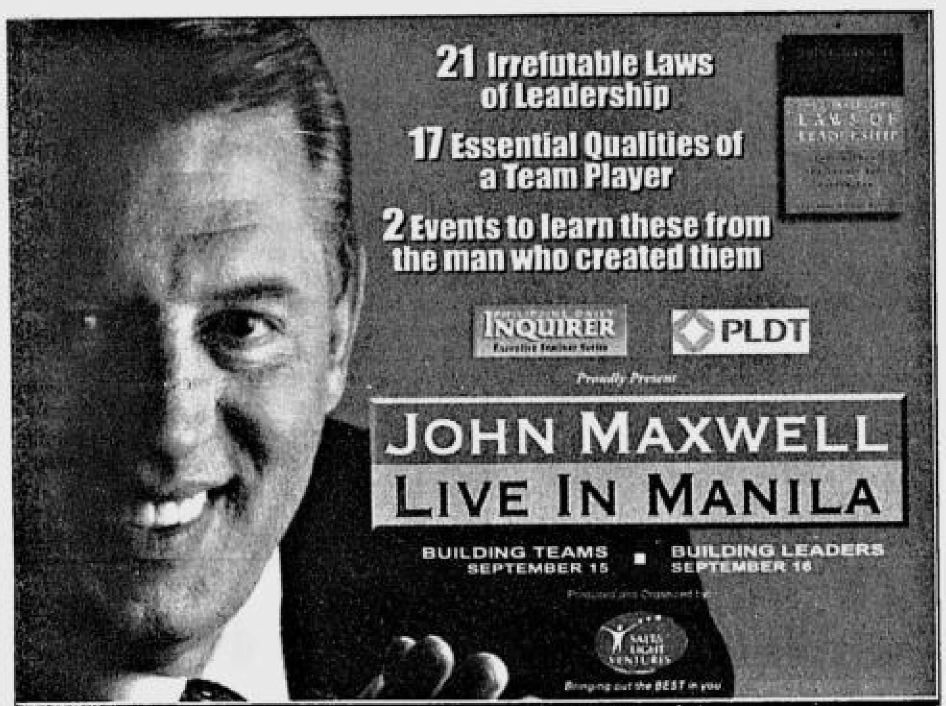
Adopt an official or agency to watch for graft

SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has called public attention to the expenditures of senators although by tradition disclosure of senatorial perks is not encouraged. With this development, the House of Representatives will now be compelled to do the same with its members; so will the executive branch, from the President down to the lowest bureaucrat.

It will now be up to the people to look into the spending habits of their favorite legislators and bureaucrats. They can start with the legislators: who are the members of their staff? What are their qualifications and what are they doing? If they are engaged as researchers, are they experts in the area of responsibility of the committees they have been assigned to? Is the nation paying for scriptwriters, make-up artists and press relations personnel in the staff of senators and congressmen? Is the people's money being spent to pay "escort services"? What about the executives of losing government-owned corporations subsidized by our taxes? Are they living the life of Riley at the expense of an impoverished nation?

How about asking concerned private citizens to adopt a legislator or government agency to watch for graft? We might yet improve the performance of the government, in spite of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The decent elements of the academic and professional community, the honest tax-paying members of the business community, and the churches and religious groups genuinely seeking to infuse morality in society (not just peddle the votes they can deliver for favored treatment by the powers-that-be) may be our only hope in the next six years. GMA is too busy convincing the masses that she won the last presidential elections and too politically indebted to the opportunists and crooks around her to be of any good.

—E. P. DAKANAY JR.,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City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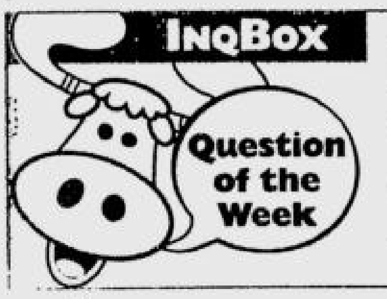

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INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Studes teach teeners to get into college

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

FOR 44 students enrolled in several high schools in Baguio City, Saturdays mean racking their brains over a mathematical puzzle.

It took the students 10 minutes on Saturday at the Baguio City National High School to try to decode the algebraic progression of the numbers 8, 27, 125 and 343. No one got the answer.

But neither did their tutor that day, Patrick Andrada, 20, an education student.

When Andrada and his teaching partner, Rod Agsagay, 23, an education graduate, put their heads together, they got the answer of 729. (The figure is the fifth of a sequence of 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9, all raised to the third power.)

Many of the teenagers admitted being puzzled by this solution, so Agsagay gave them the rest of the weekend off to think it over.

Both Andrada and Agsagay promised to be back next Saturday to try to inspire more students.

Ateneo de Manila University president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres described these young men as "real Filipino leaders" during the Department of Education's national training for student government officers last week.

Agsagay is the Baguio program coordinator of Pathways, an Ateneo-initiated program which aims to guarantee intelligent but poor high school students a fair stab at a college degree.

Nebres said the program was developed in 2001 by former Ateneo theology teacher Harvey Que, 25, to advocate free year-round tutorials for high school students who cannot afford to go to college.

Pathways is now on its third year and has been adopted by three major universities in Baguio, Bulacan and South Cotabato.

The Saint Louis University in Baguio is now on its second year of implementing its own Pathways program for Northern Luzon, following Que's reformist principles.

The university is also developing a cooperative for the parents of Pathways students, who will be drawn eventually from some of the poorest communities of the Cordillera, Nueva Vizcaya, and Cagayan.

Free tutorials

The Bulacan State University is exploring free tutorial services for Central Luzon, while the Notre Dame of Marbel University in Koronadal City in South Cotabato handles tutorial chores for Mindanao.

Last Saturday's grueling math tutorials will be helping all 44 high school students cope with next week's preliminary examinations, Agsagay said.

Monette Gatulla, 15, a senior at the Pines City National High School, said Pathways restored her faith in humanity. Her father, Jimmy, died at 45 from a work-related accident in May, leaving a bleak future for the rest of the family.

"They wanted me to finish school because (my father) did not want to see (my mother and I) playing hide-and-seek with policemen every time we hawk our goods downtown," Gatulla said.

Courts try mediation to settle cases fast

By Tonette Orejas
City of San Fernando

IT TOOK only a court in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga four hours to settle a case between neighbors fighting over loud karaoke singing. In another case, the court ended a case of reckless imprudence with homicide, also within four hours.

In the Philippines, where litigation takes years or even several decades, the pace in which the two cases were resolved indicates a new, bright trend in the judicial system.

The fast way to conclude a case and make it not reach the pre-trial stage is called mediation.

"Alternative method of case disposal," was how Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. described it during the launching of mediation centers in several courts in San Fernando on July 30.

"With the huge load of cases pending before the trial courts and the expected influx of thousands of future cases, it is simply impossible to expect our judges to try each and every case promptly and efficiently. Furthermore, when a good number of these cases are appealed, the congestion of court dockets continues at the appellate court level," Davide said.

As of December last year, almost 780,000 cases were pending in regional and municipal courts, and judges who would decide these cases remained few. Of the 2,130 judicial positions, at least 677 remained unfilled.

San Fernando, the capital of Pampanga, is the pilot area of the court-annexed mediation process. The procedure will next be tested in Bacolod City in Negros Occidental.

Twelve more areas will have mediation centers in the next four years, according to retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Ameurfina Melencio Herrera, the presiding officer of the design and management committee of the Justice Reforms Initiatives Support (Juris).

Pilot courts

In the pilot courts in San Fernando, at least 23 cases, including those of loud karaoke singing and reckless imprudence with homicide, were settled during the first nine days of operations, according to Executive Judge Adelaida Ala-Medina of the regional trial court.

Records showed that of 2,415 cases at the municipal trial courts, at least 1,333 or 47 percent could be mediated. At the RTC level, at least 133 of 1,850 cases could be resolved through the same approach.

The records also showed that the judiciary got less than 1.25 percent of the national budget, or a little over half of the 2-percent minimum fund needed to properly administer justice in the country. There are 2,300 judges and almost 25,000 court employees across the country.

The 40 mediators—lawyers, trial judges and professionals trained through the Canadian government-funded Juris—were also recognized for their initial success in handling the process.

Mediation is rewarding, as Dolorico Juco, the respondent in the case of reckless imprudence with homicide, attested during the launch.

"*Maluwag na ang pakiramdam ko, parang nabunutan ng tinik* (I feel relieved)," Juco told Davide.

The settlement entailed Juco, a truck owner, paying P260,000 to the family of Jaime Malang, who was killed in a recent car accident.

How it works

Cases covered by mediation are civil cases involving collection, corporate and land disputes; quasi offenses, such as motor vehicle accidents; summary procedures, such as ejection; and the civil aspect of bouncing checks cases.

Mediation is compulsory when the trial court orders it, according to lawyer Hector Soliman, local project director of the NJI.

These are the steps in mediation:

Once the complaint and the answer are filed, the case is referred to an accredited mediator acceptable to the disputing parties. The mediator brings them together, in the presence or without the presence of their lawyers, to arrive at a mutually accepted compromise agreement. This is the judge's basis for the decision on the case.

If the case is not settled, the parties get a second chance for mediation when the pretrial judge acts as mediator. If this still fails, the case goes to trial.

The first round of the mediation period could last for 30 days and could be extended for another 30 days.

Soliman said information given to mediators were confidential and inadmissible in courts.

Mediation fees range from P1,000 to P50,000 and are equally shared by the parties. At least half of the amount is paid to the clerk of court before the start of mediation.

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Board starts North toll hike probe

By Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The provincial board of Pampanga has summoned officials of the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) to a hearing to justify the 600 to 700-percent increase in fees that the firm has proposed to collect when it takes over the management of the North Luzon Expressway in November.

The board agreed to call an *en banc* hearing on Aug. 30 after it approved Resolution 141, which sought an investigation of the issue.

Board Member Nestor Tolentino, who sponsored the resolution, said the new rates are "so exorbitant." "They will adversely affect local business," he said.

The 83-km NLEX connects 20 Northern and Central Luzon provinces to and from Metro Manila. The Lopez family-owned MNTC began rehabilitating the 30-year-old expressway last year after hurdling several years of delay.

Tolentino said the rate adjustments would force bus and jeepney operators using the expressway to increase fare. He said commuters would have no choice but to bear a new round of fare increase.

The new rates, he said, were "not compatible with the national government's Global Gateways (program)."

This program connects the airports, seaports and highways of the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga, Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales and Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac. In her inaugural speech and State of the Nation Address, President Macapagal-Arroyo envisioned the Subic-Clark corridor as the most competitive logistics and investment hub in Southeast Asia.

MNTC president Jose de Jesus had estimated the toll fee to start at P2.49 for every kilometer.

The "biggest drivers" that determine the adjustments are the foreign exchange rate and the inflation level, he said.

He said the proposed rates were based on the original project cost of P11.7 billion. The cost ballooned to P18 billion due to delays, financing expenditures and other reasons but these were not factored in when the MNTC proposed the new rates.

Faster travel time, savings on gas and convenient motoring far outweigh the cost of using the new NLEX, the MNTC earlier said.

Zambales fishermen protest fish cages

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

PANGISDAAN IPAG LABAN! FISH CAGES ALISIN!
PANGISDA ZAMB.
KARAPATAN! ALISIN ANG fish cages
ISULONG TUNAY NA REPORMA SA PANGISDAAN.
PANGISDA ZAMBALES

FISHERMEN protesting illegal fish cages planted streamers denouncing the fish cages on the shores of Masinloc, Zambales.

ALLAN MACATUNO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

MASINLOC, Zambales—The sound of firecrackers that echoed throughout this quiet town last week signaled the start of a renewed demand by local fisher folk to immediately remove all illegal fish cages that had proliferated in the waters of this town and nearby Oyon Bay in the last two years.

At least 300 fishermen boarded 50 fishing boats and carried streamers and placards condemning the operation of at least 190 illegal fish structures in the Oyon Bay marine reserve.

The bay has been declared a protected area under the National Integrated Protected Area System (Nipas) Act and is governed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).

The fisher folk belonging to the group Pangisda sailed their boats around the bay before picketing the town hall here. They also presented a position paper to local officials, citing the environmental damages that the fish cages had caused.

"The fishing grounds of the fisher folk are increasingly getting smaller because of the proliferation of fish cages owned by businessmen. The fish cages also cause water pollution which destroys the wild fish stocks that fishermen depend on for their catch," Pangisda spokesperson Pablo Rosales said in a statement.

Rosales said two incidents of fish kills had occurred here and nearby Palauig town since 2002 due to the depleting water quality in the coastal areas caused by the increasing number of illegal fish cages.

An investigation by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in December 2002 showed that the 190 fish cages built in the marine reserve were operating without an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) and permit from the PAMB.

The largest of the fish cages occupies at least three hectares while the smallest occupies 1,200 square meters.

Last year, the regional DENR issued notices of violations to illegal fish cage owners who were operating without ECC.

A document from the DENR showed that in November 2003, 31 fish pens operators were issued notices and summoned to a technical conference.

The DENR said the local governments of Masinloc and Palauig issued the permits to the fish cage operators. These operators had been ordered to cease from adding stocks and fingerlings and to dismantle the cages after the harvest of their stocks, the DENR said.

Suspects in killing of Sarangani radioman surrender to police

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The alleged mastermind in the murder of Ely Binoya, manager and commentator of MBC-dzRH Radyo Natin station in Malungon, Sarangani surrendered Monday to police.

The surrender came as the National Bureau of Investigation in Sarangani started investigating the death of another broadcast journalist, GMA Super Radyo reporter Jonathan Abayon.

"It's very difficult to be in hiding," said Ephraim "Toto" Englis, a dismissed policeman and village chair of Barangay Tampal in Malungon.

Alfonso Tuquero, who allegedly served as driver when Binoya was killed, also turned himself in.

Englis, however, denied involvement in the killing of Binoya.

Englis was presented to media by Chief Supt. Antonio Billones, Central Mindanao police director, at a press conference in Camp Fermin G. Lira Jr. on Tuesday.

Billones cited media vigilance and civilian cooperation as the main reasons Englis was pressured to surrender.

Supt. Casimero Medes, Sarangani police director, said Englis gave up after more than two months.

Englis and Tuquero surrendered to Medes Monday at the Makro department store in Matina, Davao City.

Englis hid in Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Davao City and in the Island Garden City of Samal, but operating units sent by the Central Mindanao police kept tracking him down.

"We sent operatives as far as Cagayan de Oro City. We knew his whereabouts. Our operating units were getting closer. He knew that because he was a former policeman," Billones said.

Englis, Tuquero and a still unidentified gunman face murder charges for the killing of Binoya on June 17.

Witnesses tagged Englis as the one who planned the attack against the broadcaster.

No bail was recommended.

Grace Binoya, wife of the slain radioman, hailed police for tracking Englis down.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines commended the Philippine National Police "for putting enough pressure on the suspects in the murder of Binoya."

Binoya was the second journalist to have been murdered this year.

"The surrender of the Binoya suspects is no doubt the result not only of the PNP's efforts but also of the vigilance and unity of the media community, particularly those in General Santos," said an NUJP statement. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Vote-buying mars election for head of councilors' league

By Ferdinand Zuasola
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MATI, Davao Oriental—The election for president of the councilor's league for Davao Oriental was marred by vote-buying.

This revelation was made by municipal councilors of the province's 11 towns, who attended Monday's election for president of the provincial chapter of the councilor's league.

"Money [was] raining today. The election for president of the councilors' league [was] no different [from] regular elections where politicians buy the votes of the people. This time, the politicians [were] buying the votes of their fellow politicians at P12,000 each," Mati Councilor Joel Valles told the INQUIRER Monday afternoon.

The municipal councilor who gets elected as president automatically becomes member of the provincial board.

The councilors elected Caraga town Councilor Mercidita Anabiso as president of the Provincial Councilor's League.

Municipal councilors from Caraga, Baganga, Manay, Boston, Cateel, Tarragona, Governor Generoso and Lupon towns said they did not receive money but admitted they enjoyed first class accommodations.

A councilor who requested anonymity said their accommodations were paid for by Davao Oriental Gov. Ma. Elena Palma Gil.

The INQUIRER learned that Palma Gil had pushed for Anabiso's candidacy.

Provincial board member Maria Consuelo Palma Gil, a daughter of the governor's, confirmed that her mother had supported Anabiso's candidacy.

Asked to comment on the allegations that money was the main factor in Anabiso's election, the board member said in jest: "Of course we will not do it in broad daylight."

"Kidding aside, we did not buy votes. The allegation is not true. It's black propaganda against my mother," she said.

With Anabiso's election, the governor has now seven supporters in the board.

Other councilors were more cautious. "If any of my fellow municipal councilors would publicly admit to have received money from any of the candidates for president of the councilors' league, their wives would take the money from them," Mati Councilor Allan Andrada said.

Baguio gangs sign pact with police

BAGUIO CITY—Leaders of two rival street gangs here signed a peace pact with the police on Saturday.

The Crips and the Blood Down Posse are among the members of the Union of Fraternal Organizations (UFO) that entered into an agreement with the police to stop fraternity rumbles in the city.

Clashes involving street gangs and fraternities account for almost a fourth of all reported personal injury cases in the city, Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, Baguio police director, said.

Like their American counterparts, the Bloods and the Crips here, started by Filipino-American gang members, are identified by their scarves and handshakes.

Other members of the UFO who joined the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) were the Confederation of Ilocano Associations-Samahang Ilocano, United Ilocanos, Genuine Igorots, Tau Gamma Phi, RDF were Akhro, Phi Lambda, Caler and Soul.

They agreed to police their own ranks and "that in case conflict or any form of misunderstanding inevitably arises between and among UFO members or officers, the (Baguio City police) shall act as the arbitrator in resolving such conflict."

The agreement said in case a member of the UFO violates the agreement's conditions, "he or she shall be subjected to disciplinary action agreed upon by other members of the group."

Disciplinary action could take the form of tree-planting and other socio-civic activities. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

POSSESSION OF HIGH-POWERED GUNS

Ex-US Marine, 7 others face jail terms

BACOLOD CITY—A former American Marine and his seven companions are facing criminal charges after they were caught with high-powered firearms at a police checkpoint last week.

The complaint for illegal possession of firearms, explosives and ammunition was filed against Russ Robinson, two women and five staff members and security guards of Blue Eagle Force before the prosecutor of Cadiz City, about 65 km north of here.

Robinson, 31, a former lieutenant of the US Marine from West Virginia, has been a resident of Bacolod after marrying Janette Segun, owner of Blue Eagle Force.

Bacolod Alien Control Officer Mita Chuvy Arguelles recommended Robinson's inclusion in the Bureau of Immigration's watch list following the filing of the charges.

If he lands on the watch list, Arguelles said the American will not be allowed to leave the country.

Aside from the American, also charged were Laiza Pepito, 19; Olive Samodal, 24; security guards Emmanuel Yasay, 24; and Dionesio Biboso 45; and Blue Eagle staff members Danilo Saluto, 47; George Liu 54; and Reynaldo Jardeliza, 26.

The group was arrested on Thursday night at a police checkpoint in Sagay City, 88 km north of here, after they were found in possession of high-powered firearms.

Robinson, Pepito and Jardeliza were freed on Friday after they posted bail of P40,000 each. The rest were locked up at the Sagay City Police Jail.

Judge Reginald Fuentebella of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities granted bail even before the complaint was filed against the suspects.

Robinson and his group were on board two vehicles when they were intercepted by a police team led by Supt. Norberto Boston, Sagay police chief.

Robinson was riding in a white Adventure van with the two women and two bodyguards in civilian clothes. The three uniformed security guards were in another vehicle.

The group said they came from Bacolod and were headed for Jomabo Beach Resort in Escalante town.

Among the weapons found in their vehicles were two M-16 assault rifles, an Uzi mini-carbine machine pistol, four 9 mm pistols, a .40 caliber pistol, two rifle grenades, about 1,000 rounds of assorted ammunition and night vision goggles.

The serial numbers of the confiscated firearms had been erased.

Boston said the American claimed they had mission orders to carry firearms issued by his wife's security agency.

But he said Robinson failed to present any document allowing him to possess and transport the guns from Bacolod City to the secluded Jomabo Beach Resort in Escalante, which is frequented by foreigners. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Buredu*

GMA son, execs urge expressway completion

GOVERNMENT officials, businessmen and members of the clergy in Central Luzon led by the President's son, Rep. Mikey Arroyo, urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to end the delay in a road project that would link Subic, Clark and Tarlac.

In a letter to the President, they urged Ms Arroyo to step into the row between the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) and the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and order the two agencies to "resolve the cause of the delay" in the project.

"We cannot help but be anxious over the delay (in the road project)," said the letter.

Among the signatories to the letter were Rep. Arroyo; Sen. Manuel Lapid; Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid; Rep. Francis Nepomuceno (1st District, Pampanga); Mayor Dennis Pineda of Lubao; Mayor Carmelo Lazatin of Angeles City; George Sorio, head of the Clark Investors and Locators Association; Willy Ong, head of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Angeles City; Economics Prof. Charito Sebastian of the UP Extension Program in Pampanga and Archbishop Paciano Aniceto of the archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga.

The BCDA was going to start the program until the Neda stepped in and insisted to rebid and redesign the project because of alleged "procedural lapses."

The BCDA said in a statement that a re-bidding would further delay the project and would jack up costs.

The four-lane, 94.5 km expressway would run from Subic Bay in Zambales to Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac and provide access to seaports and airports.

"It is designed to provide the shortest, direct and efficient link among vital development areas in the region," said the letter to the President.

Mayors: Scrap pork barrel

By Luige A. del Puerto
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

CUT THE 'pork' and leave our money alone.

Mayors had this to say regarding proposals to lessen or suspend the release of the local governments' share of the national budget called Internal Revenue Allotment or IRA.

"This would lead to paralysis at the local level," said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

In a press statement, Atienza said that it would be better to cut, if not totally scrap, "wasteful and graft-prone expenditures" of government such as the fund known as pork barrel allocated to lawmakers.

P65 million per solon

A representative gets up to P65 million a year, while a senator gets P200 million.

The mayor said scrapping the pork barrel fund could free up P25 billion a year.

Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri, a former congressman, agreed that the fund called Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) should be suspended.

Echiverri noted that most often, the PDAF was used only for politicking.

Defending the release of the IRA, Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando of Marikina City said, "Many towns and cities depend entirely on the IRA for the delivery of basic services such as health, and peace and order."

Crippling effect

She stressed, "You cut or delay the IRA, and these towns or cities could not operate."

Fears that the IRA would be cut arose after President Macapagal-Arroyo said that the government was in a fiscal crisis or that it could no longer manage its debts due to a huge budget deficit.

A fiscal crisis gives the government reason to use the IRA for its expenditures.

Forty percent of national revenues go to local government units.

Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales II, another former legislator, said he understood the problem of the national government but added that cutting or delaying the IRA could breed more problems.

Creating more problems

"My fear is that this would create more problems for local governments," Gonzales said over the phone.

Fernando said this could be a good time to devolve more powers and functions to local governments.

"It would be easier to cut the problems into little pieces, rather than tackle them by bulk. Why not devolve more functions to the LGUS, such as police and education?" she said.

Apart from opposing the plan to cut their IRA, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said he was also interested in knowing what happened.

Public not informed

He said the plan was unfair not only because it would cripple basic services but also because during the campaign period and after the elections, the administration never disclosed that the country was heading to a fiscal crisis. Instead, the President kept on assuring the public of good times to come.

"We need an explanation as to what happened between then and now," Tiangco also told the INQUIRER.

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ZAPPED
Members of the militant groups Kilusang Mayo Uno and Anak Pawis stage a demonstration outside the offices of the Energy Regulatory Commission at the Ortigas Center to counter petitions for a power rate hike.

News dealers given OK

By Margaux C. Ortiz

NEWSPAPERS are exempted.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday that newspapers could be sold on the sidewalks provided that they were placed in specially designed racks.

Fernando said the agency was giving special consideration to newspaper dealers because of the "nature of the product" they sell.

"Except for these (newspapers), they could not sell other things on the sidewalk," the MMDA chair pointed out.

Fernando said the upright, specially designed racks should be set up against walls.

"They cannot display these newspapers flat on the ground," he stressed, adding that the newspaper racks would first be seen on Edsa's sidewalks.

He also warned dealers to make sure that the newspaper racks do not impede pedestrian flow.

Fernando said dealers caught not using the racks would be considered illegal vendors.

The MMDA chair stressed that the agency was prohibiting the sale of newspapers, flowers, cigarettes and candy on the streets.

"These newspaper boys would be charged with jaywalking," he stressed.

Gun shop robbers arrested

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has arrested four suspects in the robbery at a Parañaque City gunstore last month where a gunsmith was killed and 50 firearms were taken.

The suspects were nabbed in Cavite last week by agents of the NBI's National Capital Region Division, who had received a tip about the suspects' location.

NBI agents seized several high-powered firearms from the suspects, who are believed involved in gunrunning.

One of the suspects, identified as 39-year-old Zaldy Gabao, had been an employee of the gunshop Weapons System Corporation in Barangay Moonwalk.

Gabao allegedly helped the suspects break into the store on July 25, said NBI-NCR chief Edmund Arugay.

Initially, Gabao was thought to be a victim because the suspects left him tied up inside the store.

However, investigators later believed that Gabao was in cahoots with the suspects.

Another suspect, 25-year-old Benjamin Julian Ibañez, is the son of a Navy commander and a resident of Imus, Cavite.

The two other suspects were identified as 43-year-old Jose Armando Cachuela and 34-year-old Melvin Nabilgas. The four were presented to the media yesterday by NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Two other suspects, Ariel Tibayan and Lito Dino, remain at large.

In a report, the NBI said Cachuela and Ibañez had initially gone to the gun store and pretended to be customers who wanted to practice their target shooting.

Gunsmith Rex Dorimon, 27, assisted them.

Later, suspects Nabilgas, Tibayan and Dino arrived and also asked to use the shooting range.

Cachuela and Ibañez went with Gabao to the bathroom and later tied the latter up. The two then went back to the shooting range, where Cachuela allegedly shot Dorimon in the back.

Reyes orders 'thorough' probe of Jawo-Yap shootout

By Nelson F. Flores

INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday directed newly appointed Philippine National Police chief Edgardo Aglipay to conduct a "thorough and exhaustive" reinvestigation of the Jaworski-Yap shootout in Mandaluyong City that took place last June.

Reyes also told Aglipay to undertake a parallel investigation of the Mandaluyong policemen assigned to the case, including their immediate supervisors, for possible administrative liabilities arising from the "apparent lapses or negligence" in the investigation. The Mandaluyong City Prosecutor's Office had dismissed the alarm and scandal, illegal discharge of firearms and malicious mischief charges filed by police in June against Ryan and Ron Michael Jaworski, Anjelo Elton and Mark Yap, and several John Does because of the failure of the police to "establish probable cause against the respondents."

"Unless there is a clear resolution of this high profile case, public confidence in the PNP, the judicial system and the capacity of the government to deliver justice would be further eroded," Reyes said earlier.

In his directive to Aglipay, Reyes cited the prosecutor's observation that the police officer on the case had failed to inquire into the ownership of the red Toyota Corolla car with plate number ULR 223, a vital piece of information since the occupants of the car and a jeep were the protagonists in the shootout, according to a witness.

The investigator also did not pursue other information about the owner of the cellular phone that was allegedly used in sending threatening messages to Anjelo, even if he already knew the identity, the name of the cellular owner and his address.

"Except for one failed attempt to visit the owner of the cellular phone, the investigator did not bother to call or visit the second time," Reyes said.

The respondents were accused of turning the area behind the Saisaki Restaurant in East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, into a virtual war zone on the evening of June 21.

The Jaworskis are brothers to Pasig City Representative Robert "Dodot" Jaworski Jr., and sons of former senator and basketball legend Robert Jaworski, while the Yaps belong to the family of a rich Mandaluyong businessman.

Although police said they could not confirm it, they believe that the shootout was sparked by a quarrel over uncollected bets on the results of the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals amounting to P30,000.

Meralco turns off illegally connected streetlights

By Luige del Puerto

YOU WOULDN'T to go out walking on streets in Santolan, Pasig City at night.

The Manila Electric Co. has started cutting the electric supply to some 200 lampposts in the barangay this month, and some of the streets are eerily dark after sunset, according to barangay officials.

Unlighted streets could have serious implications for the police's anticrime campaign.

These were "non-Meralco" streetlights, and were directly connected to the electric firm's secondary facilities.

In a letter to Barangay chair Briccio Ramos, R. C. de Borja Jr., head of Meralco Pasig Sector, said the streetlights could have been installed by residents or local civic organizations "for additional lightning in the community."

"However," Borja said, "since these streetlights were installed without prior approval from Meralco and from the city government, we find these streetlights as illegal, nonstandard and unsafe."

He urged neighborhood associations to apply with Meralco for the "proper and standard installation" of streetlights.

Martin Co, a team leader with Meralco, explained that the streetlights might not have conformed to the required specifications, such as the size of the electric wires used.

"If there is an overload, the streetlights could cause a spark, which in turn, could cause fire," Co said.

The move is part of a comprehensive effort to limit system loss, as mandated by the Energy Regulatory Commission, he added.

Barangay officials are set to meet with Mayor Vicente Eusebio on Friday to discuss the problem, said Councilman Noli De Leon.

De Leon said there were Meralco posts in the barangay, and they were sufficient to light up the streets. "We would apply with Meralco so that they would immediately be lighted," he said.

But this, he said, could take a few more days.

De Leon also disclosed that Meralco's move had been replicated in other barangays in the city.

"As far as I know, the whole Pasig City is affected," he said.

Bomb cache in Antipolo

By Luige del Puerto

SOME 100 bombs believed to have been left behind during World War II were unearthed yesterday in Barangay Dalig in Antipolo City.

Senior Supt. Leo Cadio Santiago, chief of the Rizal Provincial Police said lawmen and barangay authorities had already posted men in the area to guard against possible looters.

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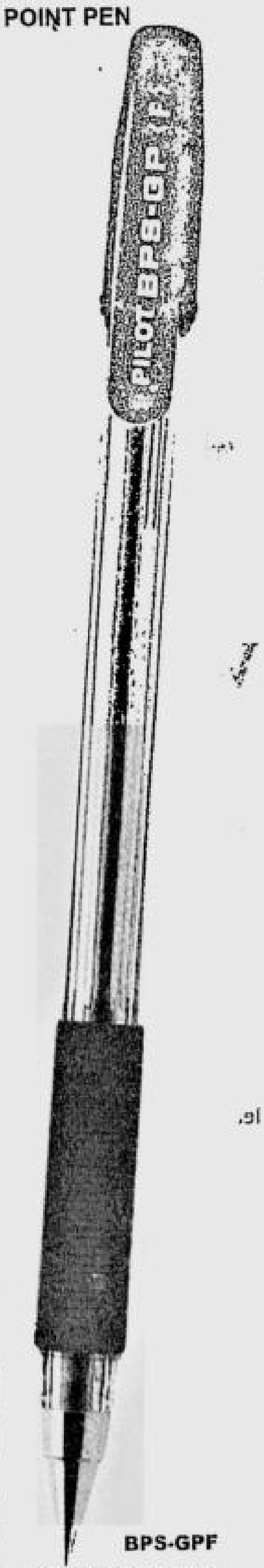

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(In exact order)

LAST QUARREL

Text message triggers shooting; lovers die

By Tina G. Santos

JEALOUSY could have driven a member of the Philippine Air Force to kill himself after he shot dead his 21-year-old girlfriend over a text message he read on her cellular phone on Monday afternoon, police said.

Airman First Class (A1C) Merlito Barbero, 30, detailed at the Villamor Air Base, died immediately from a gunshot wound on his right temple.

Barbero's girlfriend, Jomelyn Malanyaon, 21, of Don Mariano Marcos Avenue (formerly Commonwealth Avenue), Quezon City, was declared dead on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center. She had been fatally hit in the head.

Malanyaon's elder sister, Lilian, told investigators that she discovered the bloodied bodies of the victims on the fourth floor hallway of MRV Building, just beside their house, around 1:30 p.m.

Lilian said she heard her sister arguing with Barbero earlier, but she did not find this unusual.

The two would fight frequently over text messages from her sister's friends and other petty things, Lilian said. The pair had been sweethearts for about two years, she added.

Later, Lilian said she saw an enraged Barbero hurl a glass of water against the wall. Jomelyn had remained in the hallway, she said.

Barbero then left, after which Lilian heard two successive gunshots.

When she came to check, Lilian saw her sister's lifeless body in Barbero's arms. A .45-cal. pistol was found in his hand.

Sai was poorly constructed, says City Hall report

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FINALLY, answers.

Faulty construction led to the collapse of the Sai Building on Padra Rada Street, Tondo, Manila, last month, a fact-finding committee concluded.

The Manila's Building Office issued a Certificate of Occupancy to owner Rajude Mansukhani in 1999 certifying compliance with building regulations.

But the main culprit was inadequate pile driving. The building contractor had no experience working on construction that required pile driving. And the structural designer had designed the building using "outdated methods," the report added.

Manila Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr., had ordered the filing of criminal charges against the building's contractors, and criminal and administrative charges against building inspectors and officials from the MBO. Mansukhani would also be charged for negligence.

"Movements" had been felt in the building five months before its collapse, but corrective measures were not immediately taken, the report said.

Tanong ng Bayan

INQ TV

ABC Tuwing Huwebes, 8pm

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I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the InqTV program: Thursday, 8pm, on ABC.

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3	Karma Chameleon	Culture Club	TONE KARMA
4	Human	Human League	TONE HUMAN
5	Is It Okay If I Call You Mine	Paul McCrane	TONE CALLUMINE
6	Jessie's Girl	Rick Springfield	TONE JESSIES
7	Just Can't Get Enough	Depeche Mode	TONE JUSTCANT
8	Always Something There To Remind Me	Naked Eyes	TONE SUMTINDER
9	Under Pressure	Queen	TONE UNDERP
10	Always On My Mind	Pet Shop Boys	TONE ALWAYSON

POP HITS

1	My Happy Ending	Avril Lavigne	TONE HAPPYEND
2	Take My Breath Away	Jessica Simpson	TONE TAKEBREATH
3	Twentysomething	Jamie Cullum	TONE TWENTYSUMTH
4	Talk About Our Love	Brandy feat.Kanye West	TONE TALKABOUT
5	Outrageous	Britney Spears	TONE OUTRAGEOUS
6	Let's Get It Started	Black Eyed Peas	TONE LETSGET
7	My Band	D-12	TONE MYBAND
8	I Wish	Celine Dion	TONE IWISH
9	Shut Up	Black Eyed Peas	TONE SHUTUP
10	Everytime	Britney Spears	TONE EVERYTIME

OPM Hits

1	Now That I Have You	The Company	TONE NOWDATIHAVU
2	Hands To Heaven	Christian Bautista	TONE HANDS2HVN
3	Nananaginip Ng Gising	Sarah Geronimo	TONE NANANAGINIP
4	Sasakyan	K & The Boxers	TONE SASAKYAN
5	2 Trick Pony	Sandwich	TONE 2TRICK
6	Noypi	Bamboo	TONE NOYPI
7	Balisong	Rivermaya	TONE BALISONG
8	Shallow Graves	Chicosci	TONE SHALLOW
9	Pa Ba	6 Cycle Mind	TONE PABA
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PIC MESSAGES

PIC TNXJESUS
PIC ILOVEYOU
PIC TINKBER
PIC BABYHUG
PIC BIRDS1
PIC TXTBAK
PIC TAKECARE2
PIC 2SEXY4U
PIC TOXIC
PIC HOTBABE

ROCK HITS

1	Breaking The Habit	Linkin Park	TONE BREAKHABIT
2	Sunday Morning	Maroon 5	TONE SUNDAYMORN
3	Duality	Slipknot	TONE DUALITY
4	Everything	Alanis Morrissette	TONE EVERYTHING
5	Somewhere Only We Know	Keane	TONE SOMWER
6	I'm Shakin'	Rooney	TONE IMSHAKIN
7	Ride	The Vines	TONE RIDE
8	The Extremist	Joe Satriani	TONE EXTREMIST
9	Easier To Run	Linkin Park	TONE EASIER2RUN
10	She Will Be Loved	Maroon 5	TONE SHEWILL

POLYTONES

1	Hands To Heaven	Christian Bautista	POLY HANDS2HVN
2	2 Trick Pony	Sandwich	POLY 2TRICK
3	Don't Tell Me	Avril Lavigne	POLY DONTELME
4	Everytime	Britney Spears	POLY EVERYTIME
5	Sasakyan	K & The Boxers	POLY SASAKYAN
6	Sunday Morning	Maroon 5	POLY SUNDAYMORN
7	Talk Shows On Mute	Incubus	POLY TALKSHOW
8	We Will Rock You	Queen	POLY ROCKYOU
9	Where Is The Love	Black Eyed Peas	POLY WERISLUV
10	My Immortal	Evanescence	POLY IMMORTAL

LOGOS

LOGO 2ALIENS
LOGO MOONLUV
LOGO KIKAY1
LOGO NOLOGO
LOGO SPORTS1
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Longshot Lerma all set for leap of faith

PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION
063
2003 ASIAN GRAND

WITH a personal best of 6.56 meters, Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito will need all the luck to enter the finals of the long jump, where reigning Olympic champion Marion Jones and other seven-meter jumpers abound. AP

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—With her personal record, she would have been good enough for the gold medal in 1960 and the world record in 1962. But this is Athens 2004 and she will be fighting hard just to stay out of last place.

That's the kind of pressure and challenge that Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito will have to deal with when she sees action Wednesday in the long jump of the 28th Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium.

"Who knows, I might get lucky," said Gabito on the eve of the qualifying jumps of the athletics competition.

The women's gold-medal leap in the 1960 Rome Olympics was 6.37 meters, 16 centimeters shorter than the world record 6.53 m in 1962.

With a personal best of 6.56 meters, she's going to need all the luck just to keep abreast of a field that includes seven-meter jumpers like defending Olympic champion Marion Jones of the United States and the Russian trio of Irina Simagima, Tatyana Lebedeva and

LONGSHOT/ A20

Taekwondo pairings key to medal hopes

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.

ATHENS—The long wait is almost over and they're all ready and raring to go.

So said coach Jesus "Jobet" Morales on the eve of the crucial taekwondo draw that would make or break the Philippines' final push for a medal in the 28th Olympic Games here.

ATHENS 2004

The draw (table of pairings) and the official weigh-in for the taekwondo competitions will be held at the venue, the Faliro Sports Pavilion, on Wednesday with the three Filipino entries hoping for luck in the draw.

"We're hoping and praying we'll get a good draw," said Morales as the Filipino jins went about their routine at the Olympic Village here.

The three—Donald Geisler III, Mary Antoinette Rivero and Tshomlee Go—went through their pad exercises and worked on their speed, timing and power toward the end of their months of preparation for the Games.

The Filipinos have been trying to simulate the fighting styles of the tougher opponents in their respective divisions.

Geisler, a veteran of the 2000 Sydney

TAEKWONDO/ A20

RP SCHEDULE

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Knights seek share of lead

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—Benilde vs Mapua (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—Benilde vs Mapua (Srs)
*4 p.m.—San Beda vs Letran (Srs)
6 p.m.—San Beda vs Letran (Jrs)
*Live on Studio 23

AMID controversies, the Letran Knights hope to keep pace with the league-leaders when they battle the resurgent San Beda Lions today in the NCAA senior basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Mapua Cardinals also aim to stay alive in the Final Four race when they meet the winless St. Benilde Blazers at 2 p.m.

The NCAA Policy Board, which is composed of representatives from the eight member schools, convened yesterday and stressed that the civil case filed by Letran against the NCAA Management Committee (Mancom) will not affect the future games this season.

Jasmine W. Payo

Gabito faces tall odds

From page A19

Tatyana Kotova.

Luck, indeed, plays a very important role in such events as long jump, which is famous for performances now considered as flukes.

The biggest fluke of them all, according to experts, was that of Bob Beamon, whose high-altitude leap in the Mexico Olympics in 1968 produced a world record that shattered by half a meter the previous one and puzzled and stunned the athletics world. He leaped 8.90 m and blew away the previous mark of 8.35 m.

No one, not even the great American Carl Lewis, came close to matching that record. It took 23 years for fellow American Mike Powell to clip it by just half a centimeter in 1991.

Gabito, now 29 and in the twilight of her career, needs that kind of a fluke to enter the finals of the event. To do that, she needs to jump 6.65 m and a "flash of brilliance."

She knows it's a very long shot and that's the reason she has lowered her expectations to a more realistic goal.

Breaking the Philippine record of 6.56 she shares with Elma Muros-Posadas, the woman she succeeded as the Philippines' long jump queen, is more within her sights. She tied that mark earlier this year in Colombo, Sri Lanka in the Asian Grand Prix—a bronze medal performance that earned for her the ticket to Athens with only a centimeter to spare. The Olympic qualifying standard is 6.55 m.

That personal best, which she matched in last month's Manila leg of the Grand Prix, puts her dead last among the Athens qualifiers.

The 5-foot-4 mother from Cagayan Valley admitted she's a bit nervous competing in her favorite event in the Olympics. Gabito, who idolizes former Asian sprint queen and long jumper Lydia de Vega, competed in Sydney in 2000 in the century dash.

She was again initially entered in the 100 m as part of the country's mandatory participation in the Olympic track and field competitions, but gave that up when she qualified for the long jump.

"I know I don't stand a chance there," she said, back in Manila, of the sprint. "In the long jump, all you need is a flash of brilliance."

Gabito takes to the infield of the Olympic Stadium with the rest of the long jump entries at 9:20 p.m. at a time when the scorching heat of the Athenian summer shall have simmered down to tolerable levels.

"The weather's OK," she said. "We will be competing in the evening. The only problem would be the wind."

Her coach, Joseph Sy, said Gabito will also be trying to beat her Asian rivals, all of whom are in Athens. Also entered here are India's Anju Bobby George, bronze medalist in the world championship in Saint-Denis, France last year, and China's Guan Yingnan, whose 6.95 personal best puts her closest among Asian jumpers to the 7 m barrier.

But the 15-year Filipino veteran of athletics is not worried.

"After the first jump, I'm sure I won't be nervous any more," she said on the eve of what could be her swan song in an international stage as big as the Olympics.

The other Filipino entered in athletics is the diminutive Eduardo Buenavista, who will be competing in the marathon. It will be run on Sunday, the final day of the Games.

SAMSUNG

Taekwondo draw key to medal hopes

From page A19

Olympics where taekwondo was first included in the official program of competition, is entered in the men's under-80 kg division. Go is vying in the men's under-58 and Rivero in the women's under-67.

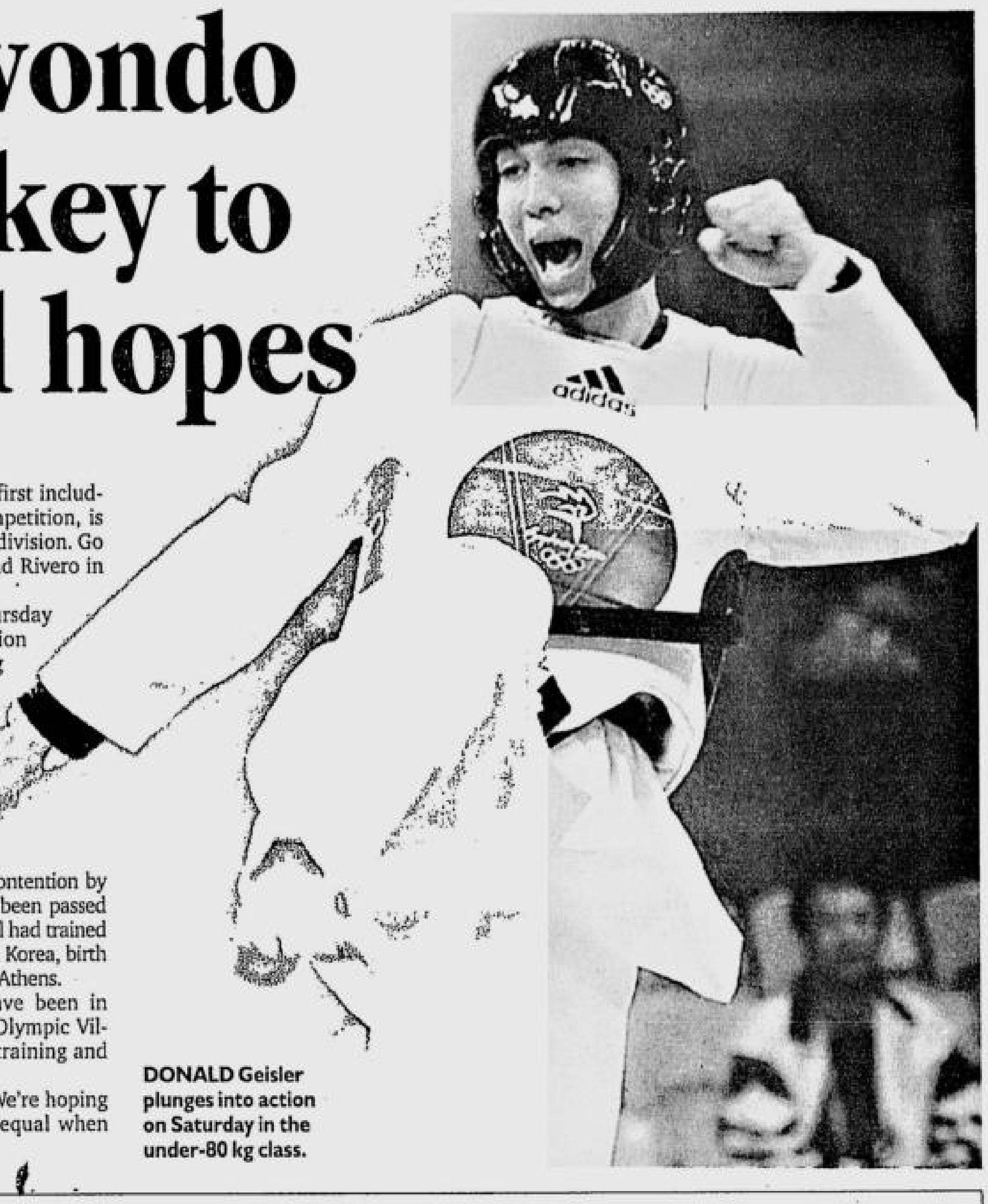
Go starts the campaign on Thursday while Geisler and Rivero see action on Saturday, the eve of the closing ceremonies of the Games.

The taekwondo jins hope to finish what had been a fruitless Philippine campaign so far on a high note, aiming to pick up where the highly rated boxers stumbled.

With the boxers wiped out of contention by the second round, the banner has been passed on to Geisler, Go and Rivero, who all had trained for two and a half months in South Korea, birth place of the sport, before coming to Athens.

Morales said the Filipinos have been in high spirits, hanging out at the Olympic Village before and after their daily training and staying loose.

"We're ready," said Morales. "We're hoping for the best. Everything will be equal when the competition starts."



DONALD Geisler plunges into action on Saturday in the under-80 kg class.

SPORTSWATCH

Maamo rules unrated active chess

HARRISON Maamo held Zomer Amir into a draw Sunday in the seventh and final match to rule via tiebreak the August second edition of the MCC Unrated Active chess held at the J & F Divino Bldg. in Quezon City. Maamo scored six points, the same output of Cecil Cuevas and Ferdinand Paet. The runner-up plum went to Cuevas while Paet placed third. They shared the pooled cash prizes of P5,500. Amir dropped to fourth-fifth place with Ronald Nonles at 5.5 points. Adjudged category winners were Kevin Manuta—top kiddies (under 12); No. 5 Ryan Dungca—top junior and Myra Aguilar—top lady.

Burlington-PBA campus tour begins

PHILIPPINE Basketball Association teams will visit colleges and universities and play pickup games against the host schools during the two-week Burlington-PBA campus tour. The tour's kick-off point is the Rizal Technological University gym in Pasig with the Purefoods Hotdogs facing the RTU Baboons this afternoon. Coach Norman Black will conduct a 45-minute Burlington basketball fun clinic, capped by dribbling, jump-shooting and passing relay contests. The campus tour will also visit Emilio Aguinaldo College, New Era University, University of Santo Tomas, Philippine Christian University, Adamson, San Sebastian and Lyceum.

Kadayawan-inspired football opening

THE "RED Ribbon Football Fiesta," the country's premiere Under-14 tournament, kicked off recently with Kadayawan-inspired ceremonies at the Tiongko field, Agro compound in Davao City. The EMAR Learning Center and Monserrat Camp School cheer dancers and the Kabacan Elementary School ethnic dancers provided entertainment. Present were Philippine Sports Commissioner William 'Butch' Ramirez, Councilors Mabel Acosta and Leo Avila, international English referee Anthony Milton and Red Ribbon Bakeshop Special Project Manager Tito Autor. Day One results saw Emar Learning Center massacre Mabini, 11-0; Holy Child A blank Zonta, 10-0; Ateneo A rout Taytayan, 9-0; Calinan whip Vineyard, 9-0; Monserrat thrash Ateneo B, 7-0; Holy Child trip SOS, 6-0; Kibalang beat Agro, 4-0; and Crossing Bayabas drub Ma-a, 4-0. Ateneo C nipped RMC, 1-0, in the only low scoring contest of the day. The Red Ribbon Football Fiesta is sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation and organized by the Davao Football Association headed by Albert Pingoy.

Gamecock Breeder of the Year

WHO will be the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) Gamecock Breeder of the Year for 2004? LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz said yesterday that three legs of the LGBA 7-Stag Derby Series will be held to determine the awardee. Action starts on Sept. 25, 27 and 29. The first round of eliminations (Sept. 25) is scheduled at Roligon while the second-round eliminations and championship (Sept. 27 and 29) will be at the Araneta Coliseum, which will again host the second leg (Oct. 12 and 14). Roligon will be the venue of the third and final leg (President's Cup) on Oct. 25 and 27. The past LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year winners were Mike Buendia of Batangas (2001), Rep. Lawrence Wacnang of Kalinga (2002) and Blandy Tolentino of San Pablo, Laguna. For inquiries, contact 926-7808, 924-5072 and 924-5051 (loc. 128) or 0920-5851940 (look for Taz Lunasco).

Araneta hosts Jimafer 7-stag derby

THE "JIMAFER JVL EC 7-Stag Derby" will be held at the Araneta Coliseum on Aug. 31 and Sept. 2. To be hosted by former world champion Jet Fernando, Jingco Brothers and engineer Efren Canlas of Pampanga, the event will be the first of seven NCA-sponsored stag derbies for 2004. "To qualify for the Stagfighter title, a participant must join all seven NCA stag derbies," NCA president Gov. Ito Ynares said. The 'Stagfighter' winner gets P500,000 and the runner-up P200,000. For inquiries, contact 911-3101 and 911-2928.

Ormoc 5-stag invitational derby set

MAYOR Eric Codilla and Rep. Dodong Codilla of Ormoc City have tapped Thunderbird Multi-Grain Concentrate (www.univet.com.ph) in connection with their 2004 Annual 5-Stag Invitational Derby. Set at the Valencia Sports Center in Bgy. Valencia, Ormoc City, the event is set Sept. 22 to 25. Entry fee is P12,000 for a guaranteed cash prize of P1 million. There will be two separate 2-stag eliminations on Sept. 22 and 23, followed by the 3-stag championship on Sept. 25. On Oct. 1 and 2, action shifts to Cebu province at the Mactan Sports Complex and Amusement Center in Lapu-Lapu City with the staging of the 14th Annual 5-Stag Derby of the Cebu Gamecock Breeder and Cockers Association (CEGBA). Meanwhile, Rolly Ligon's Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby has been calendared for Oct. 2, 4 and 6 with one million pesos in guaranteed prize. For farm screening appointments, call 833-2275 or 833-1638.

Sanchez shares 3rd in Bratto chessfest

FILIPINO International Master Joseph Sanchez beat French IM Jean-Philippe Karr with the black pieces to gain a share of third place after four rounds in the 24th Bratto Chess Festivals in Bratto, Italy yesterday. Sanchez improved his total to 3.5 points, the same output of GM Michele Godena, IM Fabio Bellini and FM Luca Shytaj of Italy, GM Sinisa Drazic of Yugoslavia and GM Igor Khenkin of Germany. Super GM Igor Miladinovic of Greece trounced GM Erald Dervishi of Albania while GM Miso Cebalo of Croatia beat WGM Olga Zimina of Russia to share the lead with 4.0 points. Filipino IM Yves Rañola defeated FIDE Master Edoardo Vancini to climb to 3.0 points.

NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Nazario sweeps Echievarria tourney

MARC Christian Nazario went undefeated in seven rounds to rule the recent 2004 Mayor Walter Echievarria Chess Cup at the ABC Hall in GMA, Cavite. Nazario, a ten-year-old fourth grader at Cornerstone Academy in Quezon City, pocketed the top prize of P500 in the kiddies division of the tournament organized by the GMA Chess Association Inc. Sharing second to third places were Ephraim Maliam and Jo Art Mateo with 5.5 points apiece. In the Open division, Roel Abelgas and Manny Yu Jr. grabbed the top two spots with similar 5.5 points in six games. Abelgas went home with the top prize of P2,500 after edging Yu in the tiebreak. Ruperto Abelgas Jr., Jasper Alzona, Orlando Pascual, Reynaldo Legaspi and Libert Partible shared third to seventh places, but Abelgas received the P1,000 third prize with superior tiebreak points.

NM Marlon Bernardino

Stand by for another RP sports diagnosis

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

ATHENS—Thought I would e-mail Sports Illustrated a thank-you note for going wrong again.

It missed the boxing target, as it did in the 2000 Sydney Games.

SI said the Philippines would win a boxing medal here.

It was a wild, wide pick.

The RP boxing team got wiped out, finishing worse than it did when it returned empty-handed from the Sydney Olympics.

Still, we are kept wondering where SI based its prognosis.

***

Look. SI missed miserably when it said Ilocos-born Brian Viloria, baptized by the mag as the Hawaiian Punch, would run away with the flyweight gold for the USA in Sydney.

Viloria crashed out early.

So, when SI said in a pre-Olympic special Tañamor would surely land a bronze medal, I sniffed around and next told myself the prestigious magazine would score a repeat of its Sydney Games slip.

SI indeed goofed and flopped in the Tañamor case.

But I have to thank it for saving me from unnecessary heartache.

***

It's like this.

I knew right from the start that the SI guess on Tañamor was wide at best.

Why? It had no sane, solid basis.

Tañamor was not even the Asian champ in the division, having lost the gold-medal bout against a Korean in the 2002 Busan Asian Games.

He had no subsequent great feats in subsequent international stints.

I could only suspect SI made the wild guess after reading all the loud press releases from the PSC and POC, two national sports agencies that relied heavily on prayers, instead of sound training and development, in its dream of a medal finish.

Sports Illustrated obviously took the claims and predictions of a gold medal win by both the PSC and POC as truly credible.

***

Anyway, I had refused to buy the soggy, self-serving official forecast.

I knew all the while it was pure hearsay what they had been trumpeting about a gold-medal win.

Yes, unlike most of our countrymen who were taken for a ride by both the PSC and the POC, I had been cushioned from the debacle by the expected flop of Sports Illustrated.

What's harder to take now is this resolution from failed, shamed sports officials who have promptly demanded a return to the drawing board after the failure in boxing.

They wanted another check-up.

This has been the sorry practice from Olympics to another failed Olympics.

No need to ask Sports Illustrated. It's as urgent as diagnosing a cadaver.

***

(URGENT NOTE: From Cebu boxing authority Salven Lagumbay: "It's about time the RP boxing team is based at the ALA Gym in Cebu, instead of Manila and Baguio. There should also be a top-to-bottom overhaul of the amateur boxing hierarchy." ALA stands for Antonio A. Aldeguer, the boxing patron whose expertise, dedication, knowledge, together with his vast stable, have not been properly availed of by national sports leaders.)

Malaysians, Thais blow away RP cuppers

Team standings after 18 holes: Malaysia 205, Thailand 208, Hong Kong 216, Myanmar 217, RP 219, Singapore 223, Indonesia 216.

By Musong R. Castillo

LIPPO KARAWACI, Indonesia—Malaysia and powerhouse Thailand had the Imperial Klub Golf at their mercy yesterday, practically blowing the Philippines out of the way after a warm, still first day of the Putra Cup.

Siva Chandhran Supramaniam signed for a five-under-par 67 and led two other Malaysians with sub-par scores for an 11-under 205 total, three shots ahead of the Thais.

Thai Wisut Artjanawat submitted a flawless 65 to lead the individual race and steal the limelight from the David Leadbetter-trained Ben Leong of Malaysia.

Jun Bernis was the best Filipino scorer with a 72 as Marvin Dumandan struggled on the fast greens for a 74 and Michael Bibat turned in a birdie-less 73.

Boyet Saragoza had a fat 8 on the par-5 18th en route to an 80 that did not count as the Filipinos totaled 219, 14 strokes off in fifth place.

The Filipinos also got off to a cold start in junior play, with Tonlits Asistio scoring a 72, Laurence Negrido a 73 and Matthew Manotoc a 74 for third spot at 219, 11 adrift of the Thais and one behind Malaysia.

The defending individual champion Leong's 69 was matched by teammate Mohd Sukree Othman.

Thailand drew a 70 from Choo Tse Huang and a 73 from Chaddani Choksuwanlap.

Hong Kong got a 70 from Stuart Murray, 72 from Robert Keys and 74 from Alex Pettigrew for a level 216 and solo third place, one shot ahead of Myanmar.

Dumandan, who became the spearhead of the RP Team here after Juvic Pagunsan failed to make the trip, bungled at least eight birdie tries from 12 feet or less.

"*Ako na yata ang pinakamalas na tao sa course kanina* (I think I was the unluckiest person out there today)," said Dumandan, who is tied for 15th in the individual side after his nines of 39-35 marred by a double bogey 6 on No. 6.

"*Di naman masyadong mahirap ang course, wala lang tayong suwerte* (The course is not that difficult, the breaks just did not go our way)."

BRITON Kelly Holmes (center) reacts after winning gold in the 800-m ahead of Maria de Lurdes Mutola of Mozambique (left) and Tatyana Andrianova of Russia. AP

US tracksters sweep 400m

ATHENS—Jeremy Wariner stepped into Michael Johnson's shoes and led a US sweep in the 400 meters Monday, powering down the stretch to edge Otis Harris for his first major title.

Wariner clocked 44 seconds, his personal best and fastest in the world this year, to stretch the Americans' winning streak in the event to 20 years and pick up where the retired two-time champion Johnson left off.

Harris won the silver in 44.16, and Derrick Brew took the bronze in 44.42.

"It means a lot. We all thought we could go out there and go 1-2-3. We did our best, we fought hard, and we all came out on top," Wariner said, showing no sign of emotion. "It hasn't sunk in yet."

Wariner has Johnson's old coach, Clyde Hart.

Kelly Holmes took away her friend Maria Mutola's 800-m Olympic title in a close race that saw the defending champion shut out of the medals.

Francoise Mbango Etone gave Cameroon its first Olympic medal in athletics when she won the triple jump at 15.30 m.

"I was very proud to get the medal and set the African record," she said. "I want to dedicate this medal to the whole of Africa."

Meseret Defar of Ethiopia pulled away with 200 m left to win the 5,000 in 14:45.65. Isabella Ochichi of Kenya took the silver in 14:48.19. *AP*

China dumps Serbia; US draws Spain

ATHENS—China delivered a stunning Olympic ouster to world champions Serbia and Montenegro while the United States finished as a fourth seed here Monday as pairings were set for the men's basketball quarterfinals.

Yao Ming scored 27 points and pulled down 13 rebounds in China's 67-66 shocker over the Serbs—a victory that ensures China will finish no worse than eighth to match the nation's best ever Games showing from 1996.

"Today is a day of great joy for us," Yao said. "I feel the generation before us made a great contribution. They did a great thing. Today we have done the same.

"What we have achieved is a treasure for future generations of Chinese players. What we have done is for the team, the fruit of our labors."

Thursday's pairings were set with unbeaten Lithuania to face China, Italy to meet Puerto Rico, Greece to play Argentina, and unbeaten Spain to face the US collection of National Basketball Association stars.

Winners advance to Friday's semifinals with medal matches set for Saturday.

Following losses to Lithuania and Puerto Rico and struggles to subdue Greece and Australia, the Americans cruised past African champion Angola, 89-53.

"Now we're going on to the elite eight," US coach Larry Brown said. "I don't think it's going to be easy based on the talent and the way those teams play. We're capable, if we defend better and take care of the ball better.

"I feel a lot better now than I did after the Puerto Rico game." *AFP*

CUBAN Yoel Hernandez (left) and USA's Terrence Trammel compete in the men's decathlon 110-m hurdles heats. AFP

Boxer punches way to new road, bridge

BANGKOK, Thailand—A Thai boxer has won more than just a clear shot at a medal at the Athens Olympics—he has punched his way to a new road and bridge for his poor village back home.

Worapoj Petchoom's Olympic success, including a 29-14 victory Monday over Nigerian Nestor Bunlum that ensures him at least a bronze medal in the 54-kilogram (119-pound) class, was nothing short of magic for the boxer's father, Thaweep, who marveled after a construction crew arrived recently in their village.

"I am very happy that my son was able to conjure the road and bridge for this poor village," he told The Associated Press.

For years, residents of the village in the Phnom district of southern Surat Thani province have been forced to travel along a mud road and wade through a canal when leaving or entering the area.

"Worapoj told me he will bring the road and bridge to our village by his punches, and it was like a miracle once he advanced to the semifinals—the tractors and heavy construction equipment were sent and the road began to appear," Thaweep said. *AP*

Nestlé MILO
The Official Energy Drink of the Philippine Team to the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics

ATHENS SUMMER OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	23	26	17	66
China	23	15	12	50
Japan	15	8	9	32
Australia	13	9	13	35
France	9	7	9	25
Germany	8	10	11	29
Italy	8	6	7	21
Romania	8	4	4	16
Ukraine	8	2	5	15
Great Britain	7	8	7	22
Russia	6	16	19	41
Korea	6	10	5	21
Greece	5	2	2	9
Hungary	4	4	2	10
Netherlands	3	6	8	17
Sweden	3	0	1	4
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Belarus	2	3	6	11
Poland	2	2	3	7
Slovakia	2	2	1	5
Bulgaria	2	1	5	8
Ethiopia	2	1	1	4
Georgia	2	1	0	3
Thailand	2	0	2	4

Japan to deport Fischer

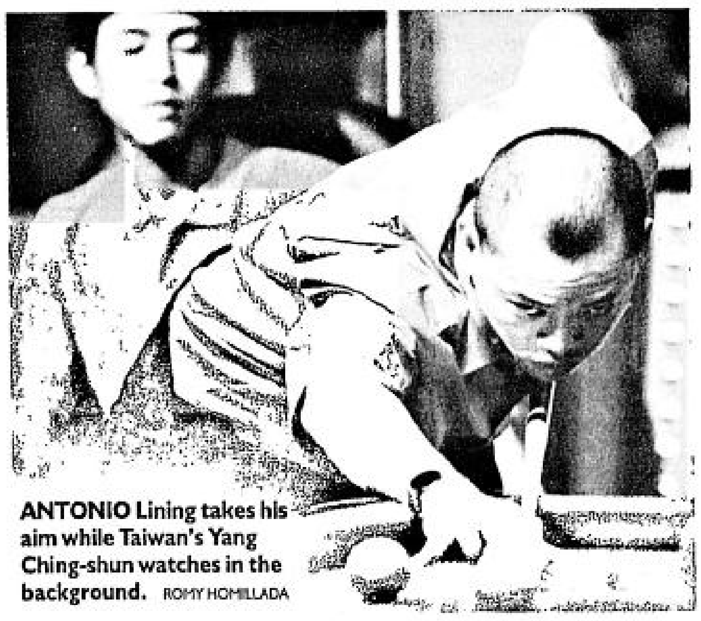
TOKYO—Japan has decided to deport former world chess champion Bobby Fischer, who is wanted in the United States for defying sanctions on Yugoslavia, an immigration official said on Tuesday.

"A deportation order was issued today," the official said, adding that Fischer had been notified of the order. She declined to give details on Fischer.

The eccentric chess grandmaster has eluded the US authorities since 1992, when he played in a match in Yugoslavia even though economic sanctions were in place against the country at the time.

He was detained at Tokyo's Narita airport last month when he tried to leave for the Philippines on a passport US officials have said was invalid. *Reuters*

Lining, Gabica give RP lead vs Taiwan



ANTONIO Lining takes his aim while Taiwan's Yang Ching-shun watches in the background. ROMY HOMILLADA

ANTONIO Lining and Antonio Gabica posted contrasting victories yesterday as the Philippines took the early lead in the RP-Taiwan 9-Ball Challenge at the Octagon Hall of Robinson's Galleria, Mandaluyong City.

The 41-year-old Lining met stiff resistance before downing Yang Ching-shun, 9-7, while Gabica breezed past Po Cheng-kuo, 9-1, to give the Filipinos a 4-2 edge.

The count was tied at 6 when Yang got the raw end of safety exchanges in the 13th frame, allowing Lining to take an 8-6 lead.

Lining scratched the cue ball in the 15th frame, leading to a runout by Yang that closed the gap at 8-7.

"Fortunately, he missed on his break in the 16th rack," said the 2001 Asian Games gold medalist in Filipino.

Presidential son and Pampanga Rep. Mikee Arroyo, Solar Entertainment Corp. chief Wilson Tieng, Games and Amusement Board vice-chair Jess Villanueva and Manila councilor Don Bagatsing graced the opening of the three-day event.

The first two days will feature individual race-to-nine winner's break matches with a win worth two points and a loss one point. The third day will showcase doubles matches with the winner getting four points and the loser getting two. The cumulative points of the teams will determine the champion.

A whopping $40,000 (P2.2 million) awaits the winning team in this event organized by Solar Entertainment Corp. The losing team gets $20,000 (P1.1 million). *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Chairman of D Board 2. Alex's Magic 3. Cryptorose 4. L'Islet Sur Mer

Race 2—1. Onceuponatime 2. Jacuzzi Mate 3. Strong Red 4. Empire Maker 5. Apache Warrior

Race 3—1. Sovereign Queen 2. Feng Shui 3. Husay Na 4. Iron Will

Race 4—1. Privately Owned 2. Paradise Water 3. Manaman 4. Voltes May 5. Good Partner

Race 5—1. St. Emilion 2. Brute Force 3. Aim for Gold 4. Rowena's Pride 5. Touch of the Wind 6. Ocean Magic

Race 6—1. Habagat 2. Power Dance 3. Asitimegoesby 4. He's So Lucky

Race 7—1. Last Hazm 2. Once and for All 3. Nitty Gritty 4. Demolition Jack 5. That's My Tiger

Race 8—1. Fly Aday Fly 2. Strong Colony 3. Great Tower 4. Penthouse 5. Naglalabyog 6. Wabted Forever/Wallup Forever

Top juniors vie in Shell finals

THE COUNTRY'S top 32 kiddies and juniors players see action in the grand finals of the 2004 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships Friday at the Cyberzone at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Metro Manila leg winners Rey Jomar Magallanes and Loren Brigham Laceste head the elite field in the national championship, which offers P20,000 to the junior champion and P10,000 to the winner in the kiddies' division.

The 32 survived two-month long eliminations held across the country.

Wesley So, the 10-year-old wizard who won the kiddies crown last year, and Reb Michael Adonis of Davao del Norte gained wild-card berths in the national finals when the Southern Luzon leg top finishers—Mark Yabut, Vic Neil Villanueva and Ramon Manon-og—waived their slots due to conflicts with their UAAP schedule.

Also making it to the finals via the backdoor is Jan Mar Hondonero, the fifth placer in Mindanao, who replaced runner-up Jayson Salubre.

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BMW 316i 2001 Light Yellow, 26,600km, P1,100,000
BMW 318i Limo. 2003 Titanium Silver, 19,400km, P1,680,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver, 5,400km, P2,150,000
BMW 325i Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver, 9,500km, P2,690,000
BMW 316i 2001 Fern Green, 35,800km, P1,150,000
BMW 318i Limo. 2003 Orient Blue, 7,400km, P1,730,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Black Sapphire, 5,100km, P2,150,000
BMW 525i Exec. 2004 Alpine White, 5,300km, P4,200,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2001 Black Sapphire, 29,200km, P1,500,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2003 Orient Blue, 11,700km, P2,100,000
BMW 318i Sport 2004 Topaz Blue, 13km, P2,500,000
BMW 316i 2004 Titanium Silver, 3,900km, P1,525,000
BMW 318i Exec. 2004 Titanium Silver, 11,800km, P2,150,000
BMW 325i Exec. 2003 Titanium Silver, 12,600km, P2,550,000

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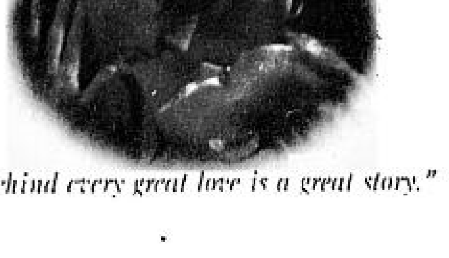

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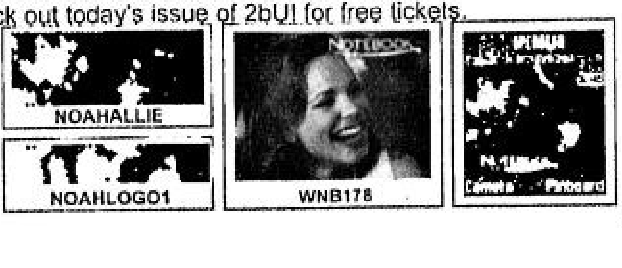

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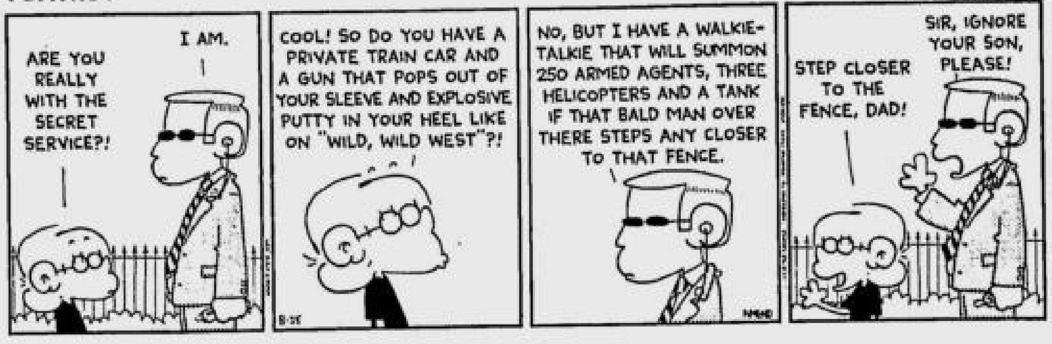
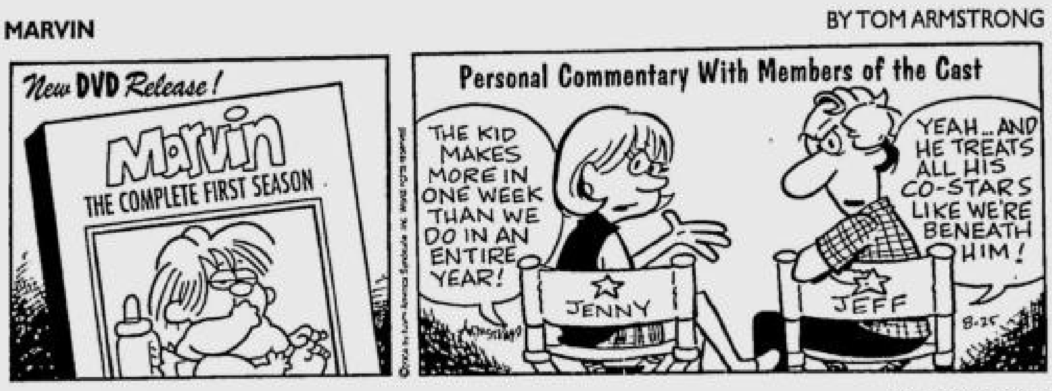
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


ARE YOU REALLY WITH THE SECRET SERVICE?!
I AM.
COOL! SO DO YOU HAVE A PRIVATE TRAIN CAR AND A GUN THAT POPS OUT OF YOUR SLEEVE AND EXPLOSIVE PUTTY IN YOUR HEEL LIKE ON "WILD, WILD WEST"?!
8-25
NO, BUT I HAVE A WALKIE-TALKIE THAT WILL SUMMON 250 ARMED AGENTS, THREE HELICOPTERS AND A TANK IF THAT BALD MAN OVER THERE STEPS ANY CLOSER TO THAT FENCE.
AMEND
STEP CLOSER TO THE FENCE, DAD!
SIR, IGNORE YOUR SON, PLEASE!

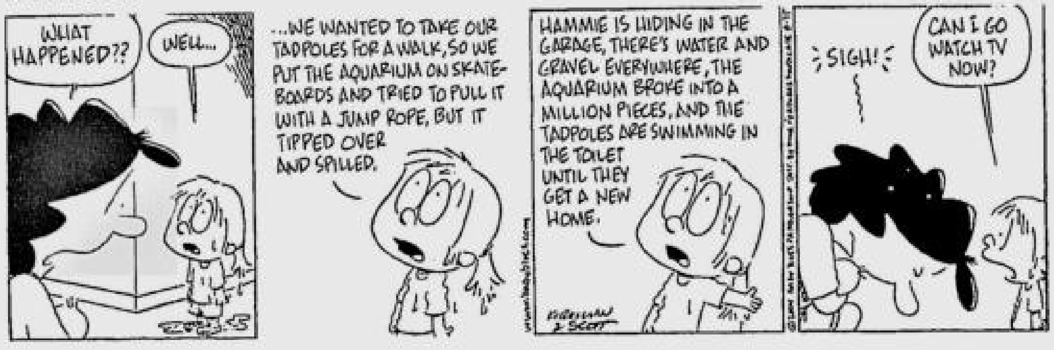
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


New DVD Release!
Marvin
THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON
Personal Commentary With Members of the Cast
THE KID MAKES MORE IN ONE WEEK THAN WE DO IN AN ENTIRE YEAR!
YEAH... AND HE TREATS ALL HIS CO-STARS LIKE WE'RE BENEATH HIM!
JENNY
JEFF
8-25

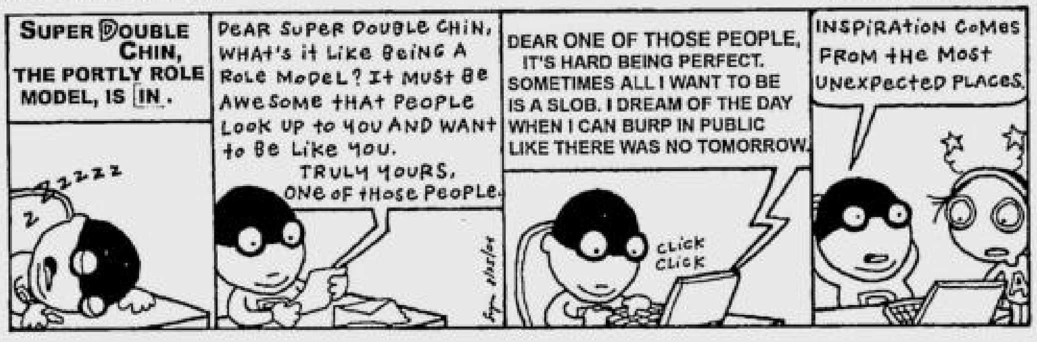
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT HAPPENED??
WELL...
...WE WANTED TO TAKE OUR TADPOLES FOR A WALK, SO WE PUT THE AQUARIUM ON SKATEBOARDS AND TRIED TO PULL IT WITH A JUMP ROPE, BUT IT TIPPED OVER AND SPILLED.
HAMMIE IS HIDING IN THE GARAGE, THERE'S WATER AND GRAVEL EVERYWHERE, THE AQUARIUM BROKE INTO A MILLION PIECES, AND THE TADPOLES ARE SWIMMING IN THE TOILET UNTIL THEY GET A NEW HOME.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
SIGH!
CAN I GO WATCH TV NOW?

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SUPER DOUBLE CHIN, THE PORTLY ROLE MODEL, IS IN.
ZZZZZ
DEAR SUPER DOUBLE CHIN, WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING A ROLE MODEL? IT MUST BE AWESOME THAT PEOPLE LOOK UP TO YOU AND WANT TO BE LIKE YOU. TRULY YOURS, ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE.
DEAR ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE, IT'S HARD BEING PERFECT. SOMETIMES ALL I WANT TO BE IS A SLOB. I DREAM OF THE DAY WHEN I CAN BURP IN PUBLIC LIKE THERE WAS NO TOMORROW.
CLICK CLICK
INSPIRATION COMES FROM THE MOST UNEXPECTED PLACES.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're passionate about whatever you do. Furthermore, you believe in yourself. People love your flamboyant, sexy style. Your high energy and perseverance contribute to your success. You often shock people to see their reaction. You have a fine mind. In the year ahead, you will have to make an important choice. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Sean Connery, actor; Tim Burton, director; Elvis Costello, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a pretty good day, in practical terms. You can get a lot done at work. Bosses, VIPs, parents and authority figures are cooperative.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day. Today's Moon is in Capricorn , and it's on great terms with all the other planets. This means you'll learn something new in a fun way.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Minor surprises could delight you today. You love anything new and fresh that gives you pause. Something high-tech might be introduced to your home

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Talk to partners and close friends about practical concerns today. Be prepared to give way in some area. And if you keep an open mind, you might see that it's a good idea.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Unexpected purchases will delight you, in part because you see they are practical and will last a long time. Nevertheless, they're thrilling, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Someone older might give you unusual advice today related to children, romance, a lover's quarrel, vacations or something having to do with arts and crafts. Why not listen?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Family secrets could come up today. They could be about a parent, for example. You might learn something surprising. (Who knew?)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Concentrate while driving and walking today. Daily tasks are a bit unpredictable. You'll have to go with the flow, because your routine will be interrupted in some way.

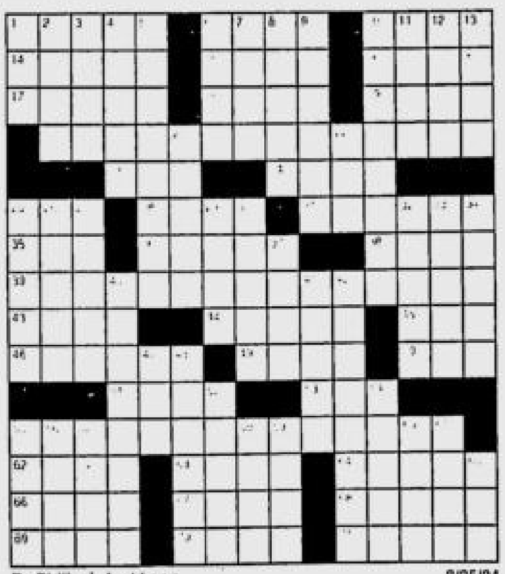
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your impulse shopping might attract attention today. People are surprised at your choices, your taste or your sense of adventure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a lovely day! The Moon is in your sign, making positive aspects to most of the planets. You'll encounter new, fresh ideas and unusual people who are from a background that's different from yours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Surprise gifts or access to unexpected resources will please you today. You have a chance to use something you didn't expect would come your way.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to introduce friends to each other. People are tolerant and yet curious about each other. Someone could give you advice about a relationship.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

8/25/04

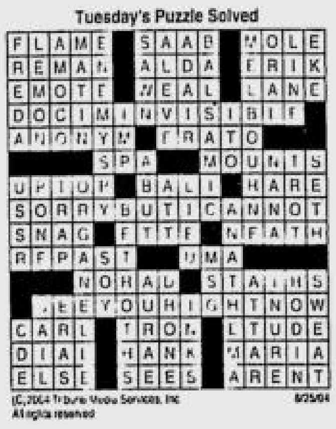
ACROSS

1 Baldwin and Guinness
6 Jalopy
10 Red coin?
14 Capital near Casablanca
15 Edmonton s prov.
16 Opposite of aweather
17 Blank gaze
18 Bellow
19 Peeved
20 Maximum P.S.I.?
23 Before, before
24 Ovid's outlit
25 Knock lightly
28 Mine in Marseilles
31 Aligned with a target
35 "Turn to Stone" rock grp.
36 Art school
38 Sea eagle
39 Maximum R.P.M.?
43 Hooked on
44 T-bone or strip
45 Actor Wallach
46 Tyrant
49 Banjoist Scruggs
50 Dodge fuel
51 Island guitars, briefly
53 Bond's Fleming
55 Maximum M.P.H.?
62 Song for Callas
63 Perry's creator
64 Grimm nasties
66 Catchall abbr.
67 "Mrs. Bridge" author Connell
68 Type of toast
69 Punta del __
70 Shipped
71 Steer clear of

DOWN

1 "__ Poetica"
2 Thin strip of wood
3 Online auction house
4 __ diem (seize the day)
5 Cheap ocean passage
6 Spy Mata
7 North Carolina university
8 Toward the stern
9 Reception room
10 Rhythm instrument
11 "The Time Machine" race
12 Roman fiddler
13 Adolescent
21 Came across again
22 __ Khan IV
25 Lukewarm
26 Coeur d'__, ID
27 Harbor cities
29 Cross to bear
30 Really angry
32 Norwegian composer
33 "__ Gay"
34 Potvin or Leary
37 Zeno of _ .
40 Masses
41 Soprano Callas
42 Neighbor of Texas
47 Positive hand-signals
48 Conical shelters
52 Dish up
54 Israeli desert
55 Prominence
56 "Battle Cry" writer
57 Tilt to one side
58 Spirited vigor
59 Auto mishap
60 Singer Guthrie
61 Mazar of "Civil Wars"
65 Blue

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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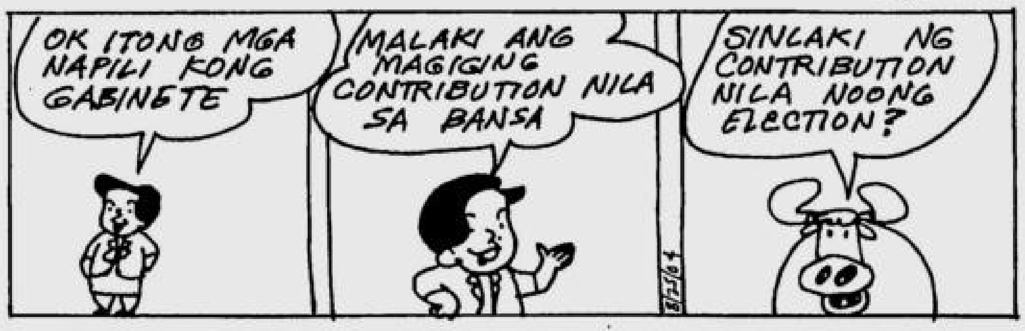
8/25/04

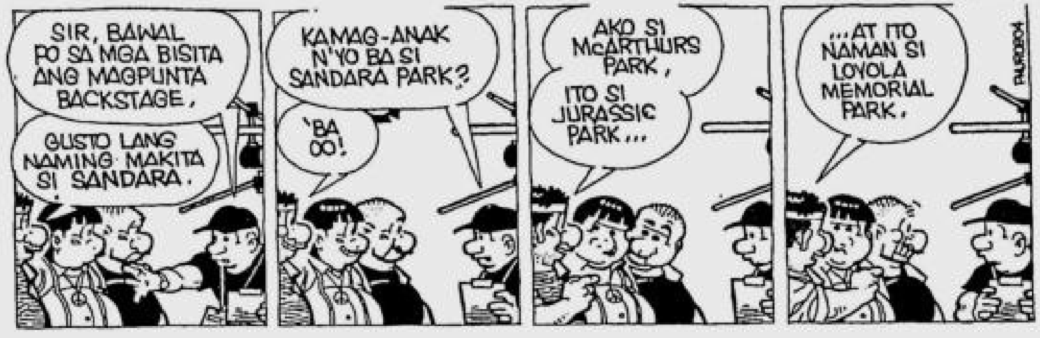
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


OK ITONG MGA NAPILI KONG GABINETE
MALAKI ANG MAGIGING CONTRIBUTION NILA SA BANSA
SINLAKI NG CONTRIBUTION NILA NOONG ELECTION?

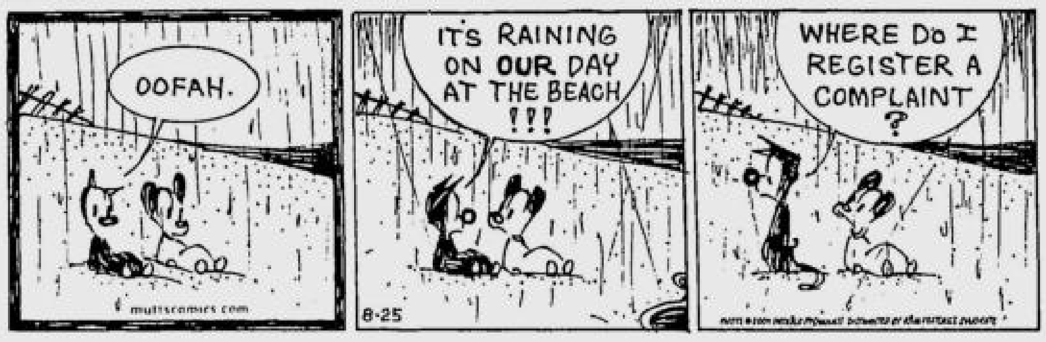
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SIR, BAWAL PO SA MGA BISITA ANG MAGPUNTA BACKSTAGE,
GUSTO LANG NAMING MAKITA SI SANDARA.
KAMAG-ANAK N'YO BA SI SANDARA PARK?
'BA OO!
AKO SI McARTHURS PARK,
ITO SI JURASSIC PARK...
...AT ITO NAMAN SI LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK.

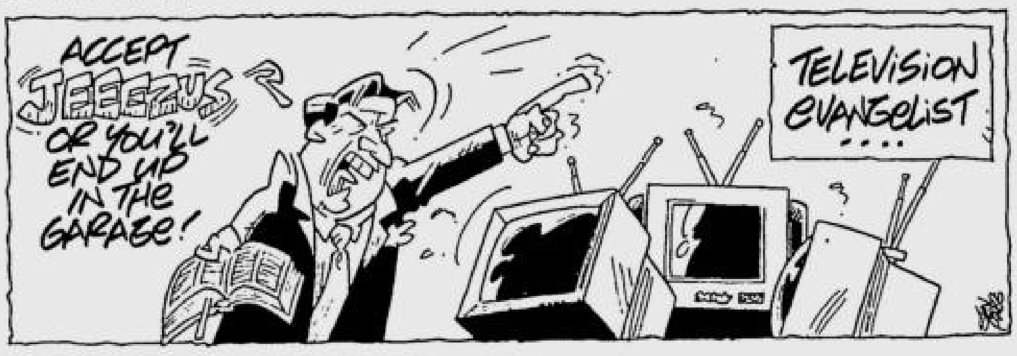
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OOFAH.
muttscomics.com
IT'S RAINING ON OUR DAY AT THE BEACH !!!
8-25
WHERE DO I REGISTER A COMPLAINT ?

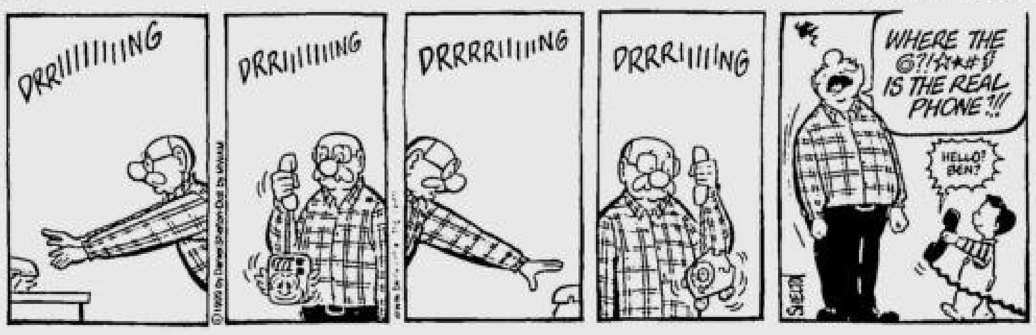
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ACCEPT JEEEZUS OR YOU'LL END UP IN THE GARAGE!
TELEVISION EVANGELIST ....

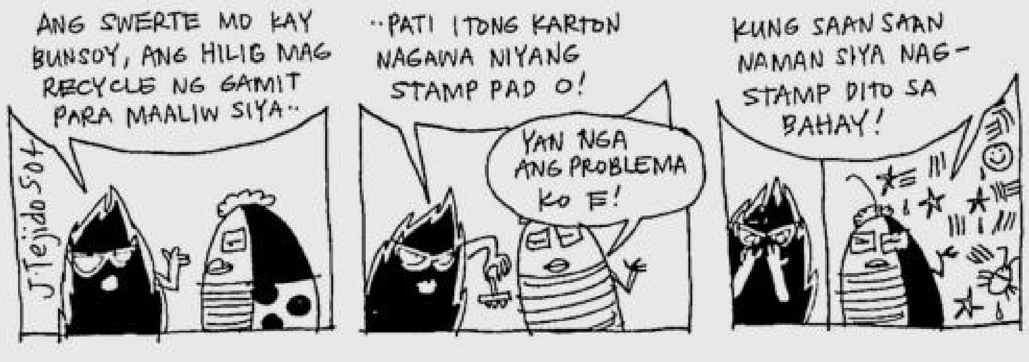
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DRRIIIIIIIIING
DRRIIIIIIING
DRRRRIIIIING
DRRRIIIIING
WHERE THE @?!☆*#$ IS THE REAL PHONE ?!!
HELLO! BEN?
SHELTON

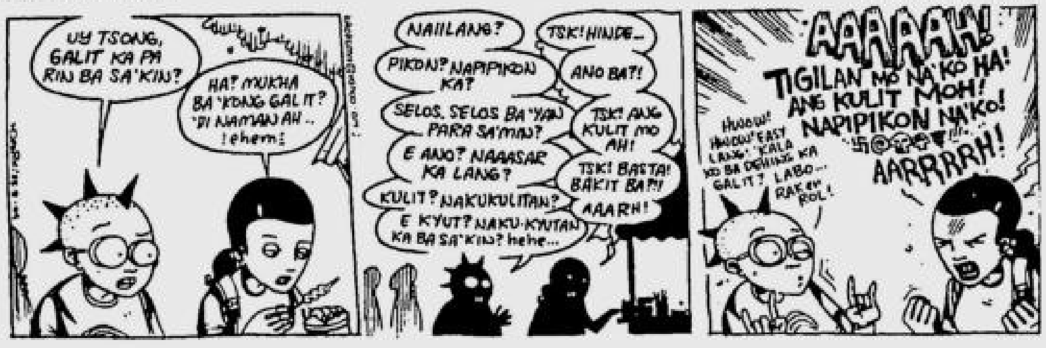
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG SWERTE MO KAY BUNSOY, ANG HILIG MAG RECYCLE NG GAMIT PARA MAALIW SIYA..
J. Tejido 504
..PATI ITONG KARTON NAGAWA NIYANG STAMP PAD O!
YAN NGA ANG PROBLEMA KO E!
KUNG SAAN SAAN NAMAN SIYA NAG-STAMP DITO SA BAHAY!

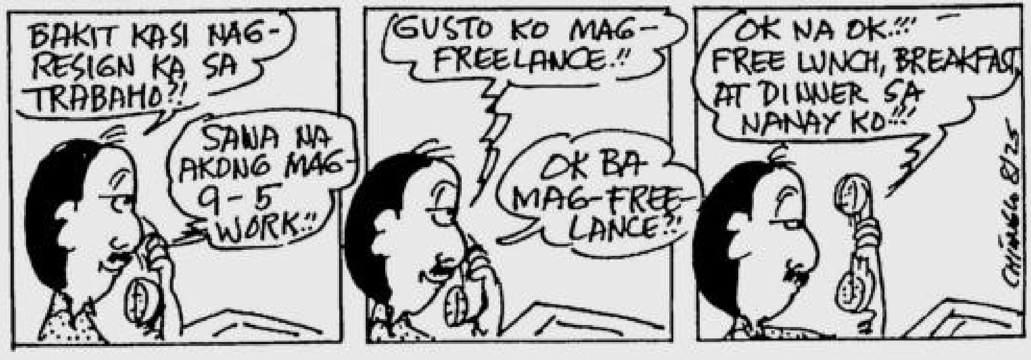
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY TSONG, GALIT KA PA RIN BA SA'KIN?
HA? MUKHA BA 'KONG GALIT? 'DI NAMAN AH.. !ehem!
NAIILANG?
TSK! HINDE..
PIKON? NAPIPIKON KA?
ANO BA?!
SELOS. SELOS BA 'YAN PARA SA'MIN?
TSK! ANG KULIT MO AH!
E ANO? NAAASAR KA LANG?
TSK! BASTA! BAKIT BA?!
KULIT? NAKUKULITAN?
AAARH!
E KYUT? NAKU-KYUTAN KA BA SA'KIN? hehe...
AAAAAH!
TIGILAN MO NA'KO HA! ANG KULIT MOH! NAPIPIKON NA'KO! AARRRRH!
HUGOW! HUGOW! EASY LANG. 'KALA KO BA DEHINS KA GALIT? LABO-RAKS ROL!

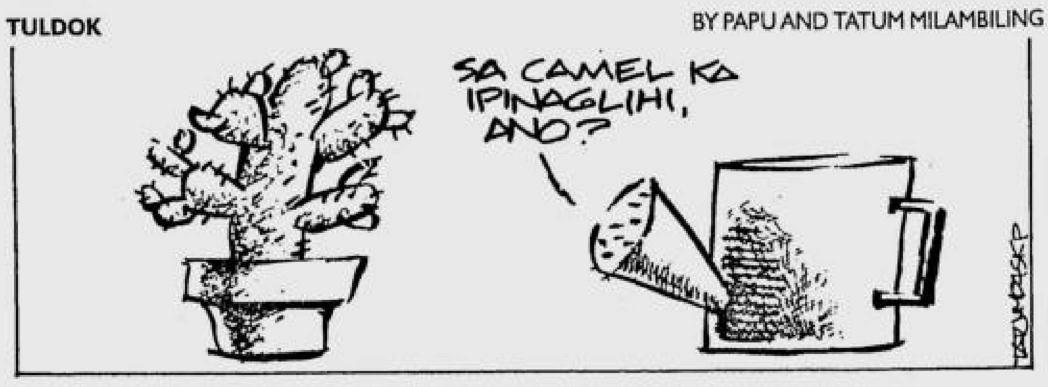
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BAKIT KASI NAG-RESIGN KA SA TRABAHO?!
SANA NA AKONG MAG-9-5 WORK!
GUSTO KO MAG-FREELANCE.!
OK BA MAG-FREE-LANCE?!
OK NA OK.!! FREE LUNCH, BREAKFAST AT DINNER SA NANAY KO!!!
CHIONGLO 8/25

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SA CAMEL KA IPINAGLIHI, ANO?

"JANET"

Keanna: I only...

From page A25

tis. But he took it back when I refused to have his child. A child was no guarantee that he would be with me forever. What if he just disappeared?"

The old man was a customer at first, introduced to her by the woman who had convinced her to come to Manila. The woman then Introduced her to old men, who dated her in restaurants.

"At first, I did not know that I should charge them if I had sex with them," she said. "*Syota-syota lang*. But the woman who brought me here always asked if they gave me money. She had just given birth, and no one was buying milk for the baby. She depended on me."

When she was thrown out of the woman's apartment, Keanna roamed the streets for a few days until she met a singer, whom she thought was her friend.

"I asked him if I could sleep for one night in his house, but he said he did not have his own place and was himself taken in by people he knew. But he took me to a motel to sleep. He also wanted to have sex with me. I cried and cried. The next morning, I called up this old man and asked him to give me money for boat fare to go back to Cebu. Instead, he rented an apartment for me."

Without the old man, Keanna again felt the need to sell sex. She became more wily and harder in her dealings with customers, especially after she met and hooked up with other escort girls. The money kept coming, and it was good, but she never sent her father any.

"I did not want him to think I was earning it in a bad way," she said. "I told him I was the manager of a bar and restaurant."

After her colleagues in the escort trade told her she would make more money if she joined show biz, she nurtured the ambition until it finally happened last year.

"I met my manager when he was looking for models to bring to Malaysia. We had a contract to escort and entertain a Malaysian ruler in Bali. It seemed my manager did not know what an escort girl really did. When we were already in Bali, he found out that the man was expecting to have sex with us. My manager begged our contact not to force us to do it. But the Malaysian guy got mad and told us he would throw us in the ocean. The

KEANNA/A24

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7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 HAMOG

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2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

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2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 HAMOG
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

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2 DEAD PEOPLE
3 MANO-MANO 3
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
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2 GARFIELD
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 MAKAMUNDO
5 DEAD PEOPLE

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4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

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2 MAKAMUNDO
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4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
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6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

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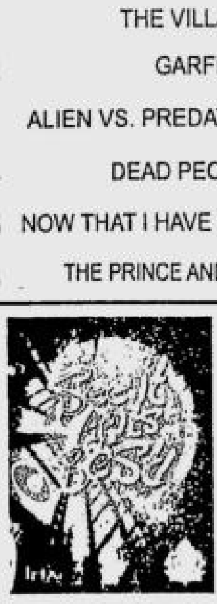
2 HAMOG
3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 THE VILLAGE
2 GARFIELD
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 DEAD PEOPLE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 THE PRINCE AND ME

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 THE VILLAGE
2 GARFIELD
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2



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THX 1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	5 A CINDERELLA STORY	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 2 45, 4 50, 6 55, 9 00, 11 05	1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	2 THUNDERBIRDS	6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1 55, 4 15, 6 35, 8 55, 11 15	2 THE VILLAGE
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 12 30, 2 30, 4 30, 6 30, 8 30, 10 30	7 THE STEPFORD WIVES	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 A CINDERELLA STORY 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THUNDERBIRDS	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 THE VILLAGE		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE STEPFORD WIVES 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	4 DIRTY DANCING 2
5 THE STEPFORD WIVES				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2 35, 4 45, 6 55, 9 05, 11 15	5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

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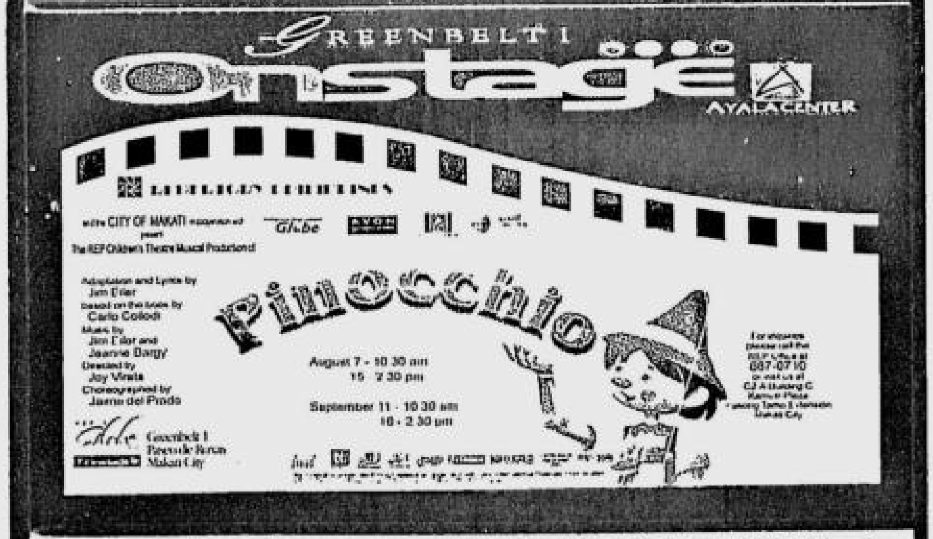
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9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
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3 STEPFORD WIVES
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
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8 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
10 THE VILLAGE
11 GARFIELD
12 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

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1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
3 THE VILLAGE
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 CINDERELLA STORY
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
7 COLLATERAL
8 STEPFORD WIVES
9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10 ELLA ENCHANTED
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
12 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 THE VILLAGE
2 CINDERELLA STORY
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 THUNDERBIRDS
7 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 CINDERELLA STORY
7 THUNDERBIRDS
8 COLLATERAL
9 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
10 THE VILLAGE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 ALIEN VS. PRED[illegible]
3 PRINCESS DI[illegible]
4 NOW THAT I HAVE[illegible]

North

SM CITY MARILAO
(044) 933 2013 to 17

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 CINDERELLA STORY
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 COLLATERAL
5 THE ALAMO
6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 WEREWOLF: GINGERSNAPS 2
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 GARFIELD

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS
8056888

1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 CINDERELLA STORY
5 COLLATERAL
6 THE VILLAGE
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
9 STEPFORD WIVES
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
7763055

1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT
8294975

1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 THUNDERBIRDS
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

SM CITY BACOOR
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1 THE VILLAGE
2 COLLATERAL
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 THUNDERBIRDS
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
8 LAWS OF ATTRACTION

SM CITY DASMA
(046) 4323201-04

1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80

1 THE VILLAGE
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 GARFIELD
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Visayas & Mindanao

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1 THE ALAMO
2 THE VILLAGE
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA KNIGHTS
5 COLLATERAL
6 IMELDA
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

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(033) 3209422

1 ETERNAL SUNSHINE...
2 RESERVED
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 GARFIELD
6 THE VILLAGE
7 RESERVED
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

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(082) 2976998

1 THE VILLAGE
2 THUNDERBIRDS
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 WEREWOLF: GINGERSNAPS 2
5 GARFIELD
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

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1 ELLA ENCHANTED
2 THE VILLAGE
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA

1
THUNDERBIRDS
11:40 FS/12:10
MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/
8:50/10:30 LFS/
11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2
LAWS OF ATTRACTION
11:40 FS/12:10
MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/
8:50/10:30 LFS/
11:00 LMF/12:35 END

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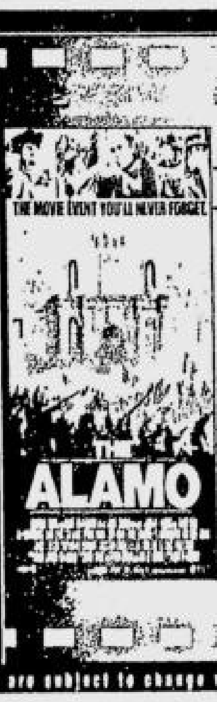
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS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ALAMO

SM CINEMA Critics' CHOICE

USA

AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE

THE ALAMO

Dennis Quaid (The Day After Tomorrow) stars in this movie, set in the spring of 1836. Nearly 200 Texans men of all races who believed in the future of Texas held the fort for 13 days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of its forces. Led by three men - the young brash Col. William Travis, the violent, passionate James Bowie, and the larger-than-life living legend David Crockett - the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence and into legend for their symbolic significance.

Showing on
SM City Cebu
SM City Pampanga
MTRCB RATING PG13
For Screening schedules Dial 833 9990

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MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
PG - 13 / FS: 12:50 pm, 3:05 pm, 5:20 pm, 7:35 pm, LMF: 9:50 pm

2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 12:00 pm, 2:50 pm, 5:40 pm, LMF: 8:30 pm

3 (DOLBY) A CINDERELLA STORY
GP / FS: 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, LMF: 9:30 pm

4 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
PG - 13 / FS: 11:55 am, 2:10 pm, 4:25 pm, 6:40 pm LMF: 8:55 pm

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 12:30 pm, 3:20 pm, 6:10 pm, LMF: 9:00 pm

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1. (DOLBY) THUNDERBIRDS
2. ALIEN VS, PREDATO
3. RESERVED
4. PRINCESS DIARIES-2
5. HAMOG

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 HAMOG
4 (SDDS) KARELASYON
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
7 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATO
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 HAMOG
2 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 ALIEN VS, PREDATO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 HAMOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ALIEN VS, PREDATO
5 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

METROPOLIS star
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(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 YOUNG VIRGIN
2 HAMOG
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATO
6 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY) GARFIELD
2

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS) THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 (SDDS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL
4 GOLD (DTS) THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
6 GOLD (SDDS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
7 GOLD (DOLBY) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 THUNDERBIRDS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center

ALI MALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397

3 (Dolby) PINCESS DIARIES 2
4 (SDDS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 (DTS) THUNDERBIRDS
6 (Dolby) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
7 (Dolby) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 HAMOG
4 ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY DI) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DTS ES) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
4 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 NIGHT MARE
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) THE CINDERELLA STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 (DOLBY) THUNDERBIRDS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DTS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4 SYLVIA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS, PREDATOR
4 ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 (DOLBY) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) PEEP SHOW
2 HAMOG
3 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
4 (DTS) TURN ON

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 SPARTAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 GARFIELD
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 GARFIELD
3 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 HAMOG
2 CATWOMAN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Keanna: I only...

From page A23

other model who was with us agreed to have sex, but for a higher fee."

For two days, Keanna had meals with the Malaysian and the other model. During the day, the Malaysian would call them to give him a body massage while he watched TV. At night, he would call them to his bed and command them to perform as he watched. Then he would have sex with the other woman while Keanna watched.

"I earned $600 a day for that," said Keanna. "It should have been a thousand dollars a day, the Malaysian told me, but everybody took cuts."

On the way back to Manila, Keanna's manager talked to her about changing her life. "He took pity on me and offered to manage me and get me into show biz. He also gave me the name Keanna Reeves. I trust him."

Keanna said she is now taking show biz seriously and has taken steps to improve herself. She now has bigger breasts—38 D from 34 C—and a high nose, thanks to Ellen's Beauty Center.

"I know I am not that pretty and there is so much competition in show biz," she said. "So I had a nose lift and breast augmentation."

She vows she would not return to the escort business. "What chance do I have when I am only a high school graduate? So I decided to use my body. After all, I am not hurting anybody but myself."

She still has her dreams, she says, like getting married and having a child "at the right time." But she has put these on hold.

"I have to face the biggest challenge in my life right now," she said. "I want women like me to have the protection of the law. I was just lucky none of my clients had mistreated me. I've heard of girls, as young as 15, who were beaten by their clients. I want to give back to these girls their future."

THE WIVES OF STEPFORD HAVE A SECRET

PG-13

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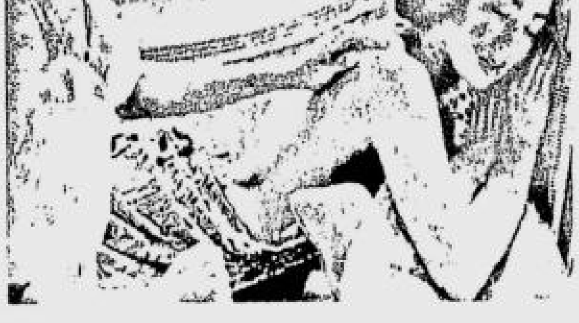

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Louie C. Camino

Keanna: I only want to be a success

Ex-escort's 'talent fees' up, endorsements pour in

By Nini Valera

"*GUSTO ko lang namàn pong umasenso* (I only want to be a success)."

If by success she means being recognized in public and getting more work for higher pay, including offers to do more of the sex kind of job that she became notorious for, then Janet, the woman now known as Keanna Reeves, is a success.

She says she has received phone calls from former clients—in the sex trade—who now offer her as much as P50,000 for her services as an "escort girl." Before her exposé, her fee as an escort was only P7,000 to P10,000, she says.

Her talent fee for a movie role has gone up to P15,000 per shooting day, from P5,000, according to her manager Richard Hinola.

She is also fully booked for the next few months for live shows and television show appearances.

She is grabbing all the opportunities that come her way.

"This is my biggest break so far," said Keanna, speaking in Filipino with a thick Visayan accent. "Before this, I was just waiting in the wings of show biz. My first movie, 'Shut Up, Imemorize Mo Yan,' will be released this month."

She has won product endorsements like Blue Hipes, a T-shirt brand that also put her on a giant billboard on Edsa.

"REEVES." From "victim" to prostituted women's "champion"?

She gets free make-up, clothes and shoes from other sponsors who, she says, admire her for wanting to turn a new leaf.

And when she went malling over the weekend, Keanna was mobbed by young girls who asked for her autograph.

"I was surprised," she told INQUIRER Entertainment last Saturday. "It was as if I were J Lo."

With the new fame also came threatening text messages and phone calls from both her colleagues in the escort business and her supposed customers.

"They said I should be killed so all this would stop," she said. "They blamed me for the slowdown in the escort business."

Keanna, who will be 23 next month and who looks her age without the heavy makeup she wears on television, gave a face to prostitution after she admitted on national TV, on Boy Abunda's "Kontrobersyal," that she was an escort girl, a euphemism for prostituted woman, with both politicians and movie actors for clients.

"Staffers of 'Kontrobersyal' approached me looking for a controversial topic," she narrated. "When I told them that I was an escort girl, they asked me if I would admit to having sex for pay. I said I would, and I was interviewed for the show. I was asked who my clients were. I said they were mostly foreigners, but I also said I had businessmen, movie actors and politicians. I said I could name other starlets engaged in the escort service. That's how this started.

"I really was a prostitute," she stressed. "I cannot deny that. It seems I am the only one who has the guts to admit it. But I planned on keeping it a secret. After I have saved enough to start a small business, I would have returned to my quiet if uneventful life."

If not for the sordid topic of prostitution, Keanna said, she would have loved being the talk of the town.

"All over the country, from television to radio to Congress, I am being talked about," she said. "But it's about prostitution, my admission that I had sex for pay, and it's an ugly topic for discussion. I am so tired of all this, of all the questions I have to answer, and I have no answers."

Long before she became Keanna Reeves, the young woman, who claims that she had been an escort to movie actors and politicians, was called Janet.

"Janet *na lang po* (Just call me Janet)," she told INQUIRER Entertainment, saying that she did not want to drag her family into what is now a national mess by revealing her surname.

"My father is already mad at me," she said. "He has already disowned me. He suffered a heart attack because of my revelations. You know how it is in a small town where people talk and make conclusions."

She hesitated when talking about her life, omitting people and places in her narrative. She refused to name the town where she was born, grew up, and was schooled, describing the place only as "somewhere in the north, on the way to Bugu-o." She said her late mother was a school teacher, and her father, now in his 50s, is a retired overseas contract worker. She went to college for one year, but dropped out "because I always skipped classes."

She said her family members "were invaded by the media over the weekend. People from a TV network approached them and tried to bribe them just to talk about me. They offered as much as P10,000, when they wouldn't even pay me during my interviews with them."

Her threat to name her clients and her colleagues in the escort business, who like her want to be stars in show biz, has drawn national interest and renewed interest in the subject. The party-list group Gabriela and its representative, Lisa Masa, took the cudgels for Keanna, assigning her a lawyer to represent her in future hearings in Congress.

Keanna thinks the media attention her admission has generated is "senseless."

"Let's just wait for Congress to act on it," she said.

Masa is proposing a law that would prosecute government officials who hire prostitutes. Under the present law, the prostituted woman is considered a criminal offender. In Masa's proposed amendment to the law, the prostituted woman will be treated as a victim. But the customer and the pimp shall be prosecuted for the crime.

Keanna said she has a boyfriend. "It feels good to have a boyfriend," she said.

She said he is a gym instructor she met in a disco. She has told him about her past and he understood, she said. But she added, "Things change and he might meet another woman that he might love more than he loves me. But right now, we're OK.

"I spend for us," she admitted. "I pay all the bills because he lives in my house. He wanted us to have a child so I would lead a quiet life. But I convinced him to let me pursue my career so we would not be lacking in money."

She said the first time a man wanted her to bear his child, the man was in his 60s and he made her his kept woman. "He rented an apartment for me. He gave me anything I asked for. He even gave me a new Toyota Al-

KEANNA/ A23

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
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1	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	11:45, 2:20, 4:55 7:20, 10:20 PG-13
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	12:00, 2:30, 5:00 7:20, 10:20 GP
3	STEPFORD WIVES	11:50, 2:00, 4:10 6:20, 8:30, 10:40 PG-13
4	THUNDERBIRDS	12:00, 2:40, 5:20 8:00, 10:40 GP

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ALIEN VS. PREDATOR PG13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	STEFORD WIVES PG13 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00
THUNDERBIRDS	CINDERELLA STORY GP 11:50, 1:45, 3:40 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	LAWS OF ATTRACTION PG13 12:00, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8:15, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

ARANETA CENTER
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	10:55 am 1:25 pm 3:55 pm 6:25 pm 8:55 pm
4	SDDS	ALIEN vs PREDATOR	12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
5	dts	THUNDERBIRDS	11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm
6	Dolby	LAWS OF ATTRACTION	11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm
7	Dolby	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Aug 27	CUSA OPENING CEREMONIES
Sep 11	ATENEO vs FEU
Sep 12	UAAP: CHEERING COMPETITION
Sep 15	JOHN MAXWELL in Manila
Sep 17	SOUTH BORDER CONCERT
Sep 18	WRR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Sep 19	UAAP SEMIFINAL GAMES
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY : LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	HAMOG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	HAMOG
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	ALIEN VS PREDATOR/STEPFORD WIVES/CINDERELLA STORY/THE VILLAGE
PREMIERE THEATRE	STEPFORD WIVES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GARFIELD
CINEMA-2	HAMOG
CINEMA-3	STEFORD WIVES
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-6	VILLAGE
CINEMA-7	CINDERELLA STORY
CINEMA-8	KARELASYON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THUNDERBIRDS
CINEMA-12	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
CINEMA-14	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-15	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	VILLAGE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

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- Hamog
- Alien vs Predator
- Princess Diaries 2

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SHANG CINEPLEX

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
FS 12:50 pm, 3:05 pm, 5:20 pm, 7:35 pm
LMF 9:50 pm (PG-13)

2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
FS 12:00 pm, 2:50 pm, 5:40 pm
LMF 8:30 pm (GP)

3 A CINDERELLA STORY
FS 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm
7:30 pm, LMF 9:30 pm (GP)

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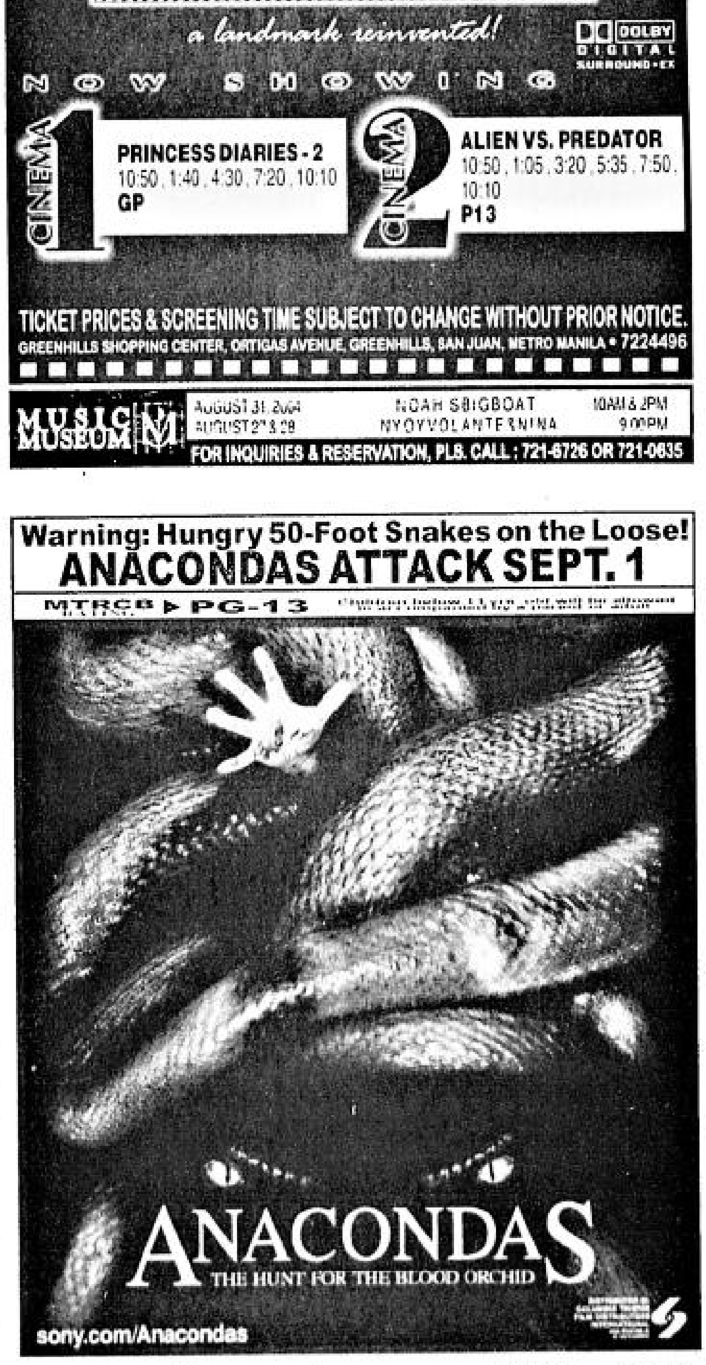

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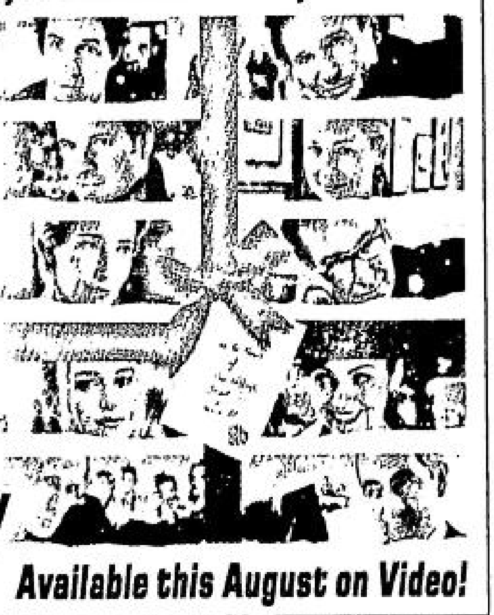

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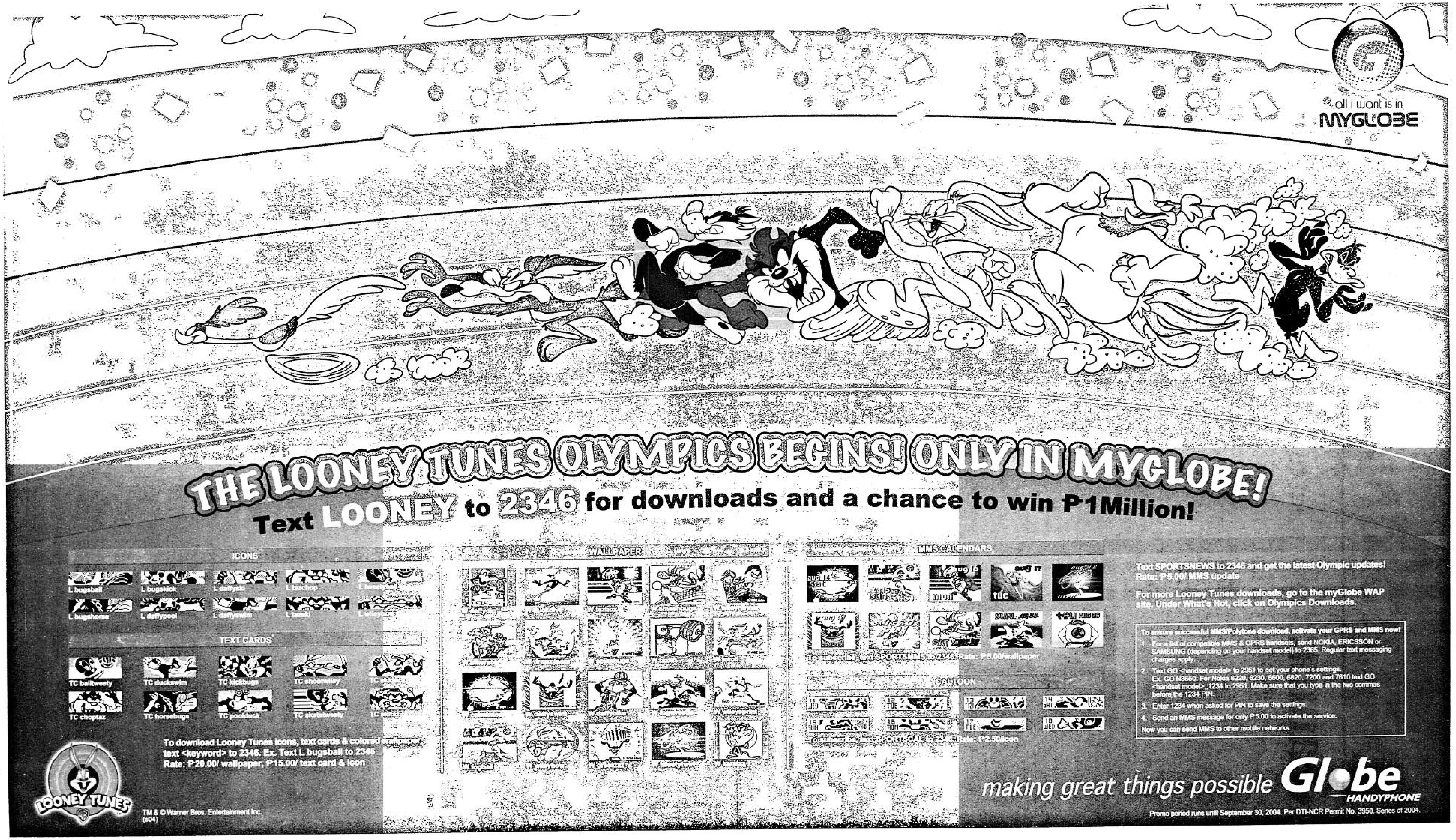
More movies on pages A2-2 and A2-3.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ENTERTAINMENT

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'She lied under oath,' says GMA 7 VP

A GMA Network executive has accused its publicist of lying under oath and making "false and malicious statements" in her counter-affidavit on the libel case filed by Kris Aquino against the network's executives.

In her complaint filed before the Makati City Prosecutor's Office last Monday, GMA vice president for TV entertainment Wilma Galvante said Ma. Theresa "Tet" Defensor committed perjury when she stated in her affidavit that Galvante and corporate communications OIC Butch Raquel handed her the "column feed" that contained personal statements against Aquino and ordered its distribution to newspaper columnists.

Defensor also claimed in her affidavit that Galvante, Raquel, as well as GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon and vice president Gilberto Duavit Jr. pressured her into signing a letter in which Defensor took "full responsibility for the Kris Aquino column item."

The vice president for TV entertainment said in a GMA 7 statement that, contrary to Defensor's claim, Galvante could not have given her the column feed on June 2, 2004 because Galvante was in the US and Canada from May 19 to June 10.

Galvante said that after she came home from her trip, she never spoke to Defensor until the latter sent the item to columnists last June 16.

Galvante said she was also out of the country when Defensor signed her letter taking full responsibility for the column-feed incident. Defensor's letter was dated July 12. Galvante said she was in China July 10-13.

Also yesterday, Galvante, Raquel, Gozon and Duavit submitted to the Makati City Prosecutor's Office their replies to the counter-affidavit that Defensor submitted Aug. 13.

In his reply, Raquel maintained he never instructed Defensor to send the column feed to, among others, Gabinete for publication.

Raquel also claimed he was not aware that Defensor sent the item to Gabinete and other columnists. He said he gave the column item to Defensor on or about June 2, 2004 but never instructed her to send it to columnists.

Raquel said Defensor exercised her discretion as an officer of the company when she sent out the item on June 16, two weeks after Raquel gave it to her.

He said that had he instructed Defensor to send out the item, Defensor would have done so immediately and would not have waited many days to comply with an order from her superior.

Raquel said Defensor's claim that she was pressured into signing her letter of admission was "a fabrication and a desperate attempt to free herself from the blame." He said Defensor merely handed to him the written admission, which she alone prepared. There were no other GMA 7 executives present when she gave it to him, Raquel added.

Gozon and Duavit stated in their joint reply that Defensor's claim showed she had an "awry imagination" since they neither met with nor talked to her about her letter of admission or her sending out the item about Kris Aquino to entertainment columnists via e-mail.

According to Raquel, it has been an industry practice to send column feeds to the press for publication. The practice, he said, also exists within ABS-CBN, where he worked for 12 years, including five years as the head of its public relations department.

But Raquel claimed that it has been the policy and instruction of the network not to send out for publication improper and personal statements directed against any person, entity or rival network.

He admitted that as a proof of this policy, GMA 7 management reprimanded him in writing and ordered the investigation of Defensor. Management even issued a public statement apologizing to Aquino.

Raquel said that after Defensor signed her letter of admission, she submitted her resignation letter to him the following day, July 13. He said he accepted the resignation on July 14 but Defensor withdrew it on July 15.

Raquel said he met with Defensor over dinner on July 21, when Defensor suggested that she merely be suspended for two months and later transferred to the network's subsidiaries.

He said that according to Defensor, this would be the best option for GMA 7 to keep her within its "control."

Raquel said Defensor claimed that ABS-CBN was offering to hire her. She claimed to be receiving text messages from ABS-CBN VP for Synergy and New Genre Programs Enrico Santos, Raquel said.

Raquel said Defensor's brother, Tiny, called him up last July and informed him ABS-CBN had been asking Defensor for an interview.

Raquel quoted Tiny Defensor as saying during their conversation, "*Alam mo* Butch, *pera-pera lang 'yan* (You know, it's all about money)."

Raquel said he told Gozon of Defensor's suggestions and ABS-CBN's alleged offers. Gozon rejected Defensor's suggestions and asked GMA 7's HRD to issue a show-cause letter requiring Defensor to explain the incident, Raquel added.

CRUISE CONTROL. Very believable as a cold-hearted killer

An elaborate cat-and-mouse game /A2-2

Mandy Moore's life is 'pretty boring' /A2-4

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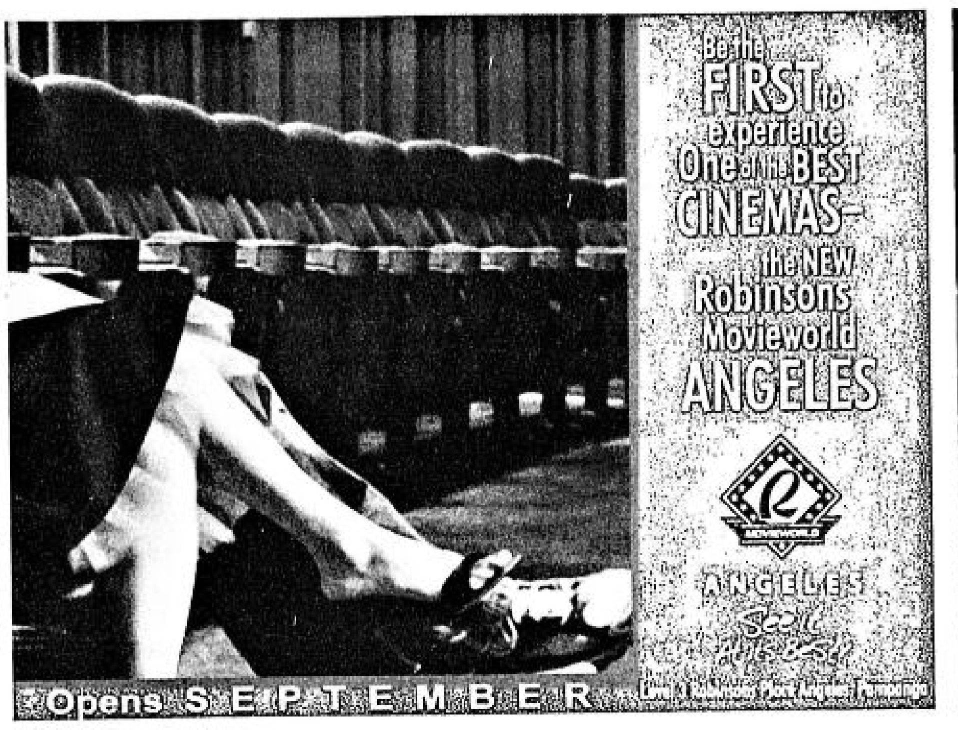
'Collateral': Elaborate cat-and-mouse game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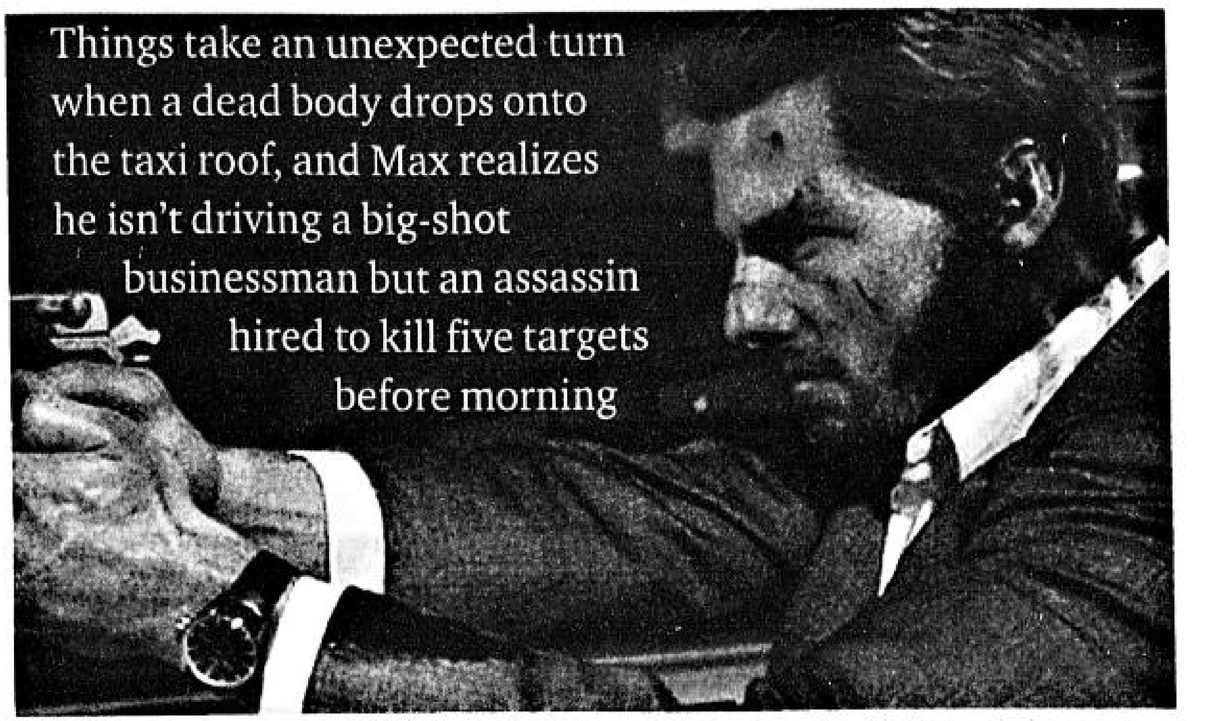
Things take an unexpected turn when a dead body drops onto the taxi roof, and Max realizes he isn't driving a big-shot businessman but an assassin hired to kill five targets before morning

CRUISE SPEED. A major change from his clean-cut looks

REVIEW

By Catherine Jao
Contributor

"IT STARTED like any other night...," the trailer proclaims. And indeed "Collateral" does, not only for the characters but also for the audience.

I came into the theater expecting to watch a typical action movie (read: a thin plot line held together by superb action scenes). After watching it, I would have to say that it is right up there as one of the best character-driven action movies I have seen in a long while.

The plot is really quite simple. The audience is first introduced to Max (Jamie Foxx), a nondescript cabbie who is nevertheless very good at what he does. He demonstrates his expertise with casual flair as he converses, and even flirts, with his second to the last customer for the night, a federal prosecutor named Annie Farrell (Jada Pinkett Smith).

The movie's pace then begins to quicken when Vincent (Tom Cruise), his last customer, gets into his taxi. Out to close a "major deal," Vincent is in a rush to get to where he's going. Max proves his worth when he gets Vincent to his destination exactly when he said he would, prompting Vincent to offer Max $600 to drive him around to each of his five destinations for the night.

For that price, Max doesn't need a lot of persuading.

But things take an unexpected turn when a dead body drops onto the taxi roof, and Max realizes he isn't driving a big-shot businessman but an assassin hired to kill five targets before morning.

What follows is an elaborate cat-and-mouse game as Max tries various ways to escape Vincent. The movie becomes even more complex and fast-paced, with the cops and the FBI right on Vincent's tail as he strives to complete his contract while reining Max in.

Director Michael Mann portrays Los Angeles as the typical self-absorbed, busy and grimy city, a perfect backdrop for the events. The use of digital video technology lends a gritty, up-close feel to the movie, making the viewers feel as if they were at once as isolated as the people rushing through the city, and as if they were intimate with Max and Vincent.

The seriousness and gore provide a counterpoint to some surprisingly funny scenes as the two characters behave in unexpected ways, being forced to protect each other at different points when their instincts scream at them not to.

The humor also hits the audience with force precisely because it comes fast on the heels of the violence.

On the surface, Max is the cabbie working hard to save enough to fund his big dreams. But further pressing from Vincent shows that Max lives life with bated breath. He is content to weave his dreams but, sadly, not to realize them.

All this changes when he encounters Vincent. What may be one of the most traumatic experiences in Max's life may also be one of the best things that could happen to the cabbie..

Vincent's rational and cynical but otherwise normal demeanor gradually reveals the psychopath beneath the surface. It is not the stereotypical psychopath but one who lives by his own code of ethics.

At times, he is the black-hearted criminal with a ready lie on his lips. At other times, he shows himself to be Max's protector and mentor, almost.

Contrary to expectations, Cruise is very believable as a cold-hearted killer. The salt-and-pepper hair and the stubble is a major change from his usual brown-haired, clean-cut looks.

Though the movie begins innocuously enough, the suspense that builds up into a nerve-wracking confrontation will leave the audience astounded.

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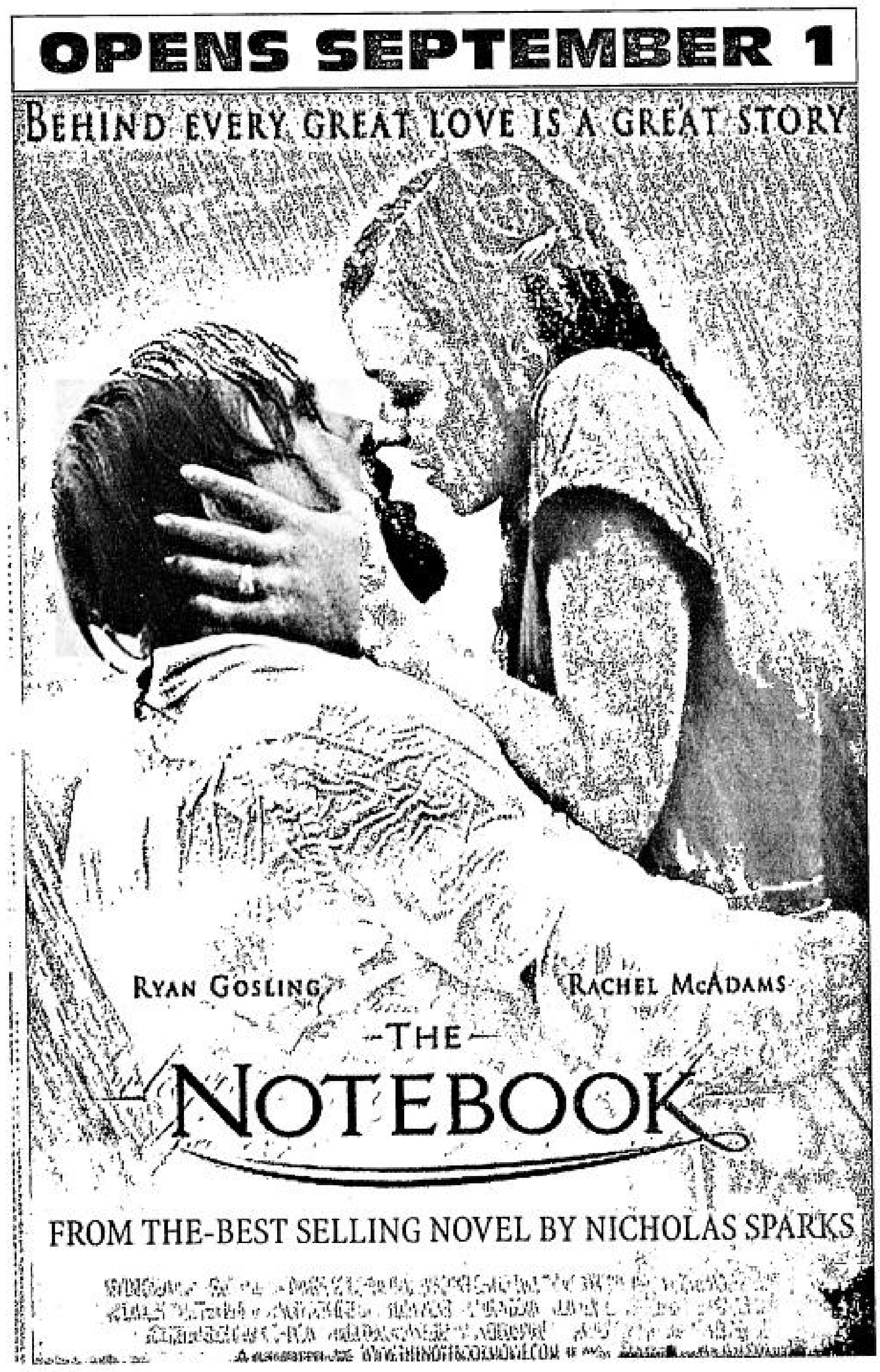
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Walt Disney

THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Life-learning lesson, turning chartwheel and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Why are local songs so predictable these days? What's the problem?

Guest: I think, it's the lyrics. *Mahirap mag*-compose *ng magandang* lyrics.

(*Talagang mahirap, kasi ang kino*-compose, *ang* melody, *hindi ang* lyrics, which are written, not composed.)

* * *

Host: Is your new boyfriend the love of your life?

Guest: I think so—love *ko talaga siya!*

Host: Even if you aren't the first woman in his life?

Host: Even then, I love him *talaga—kahit nagkaroon na siya ng* past tense!

(Ano raw!)

* * *

Host: But I hear that you have fights ...

Guest: Even though, it's but natural to boyfriend!

(Isa ka pa.)

* * *

Host: What did you fight about the last time?

Guest: *Na*-heat *ko kasi ang* ego *niya*.

(One hot ego coming up!)

* * *

Host: Are you sorry about it?

Guest: Very sorry. I apologized *nga* why did I dood it!

(Why *nga ba?*)

* * *

Host: What can you say about the proliferation of porno pictures in some tabloids?

Guest: Because of its effects on especially young people, it is a state of despicable situation!

(That bad, huh!)

* * *

Host: *O*, why do you look tired?

Guest: Our campaign against gambling is really hard.

Host: You encounter a lot of opposition?

Guest: Yes, it's not easy fighting the gambling lords—especially the illegal gambling lords.

(You mean, there's a difference?)

* * *

Host: I was so glad when I heard that you survived the accident!

Guest: Thanks, I appreciate your concern.

Host: Now tell me: Any life-learning lesson you learned after the accident?

(*Ay*, life-learning lesson!)

* * *

Host: Have you stopped smoking?

Guest: Not completely, but I'm trying to reduce.

Host: From what to what?

Guest: I now smoke four packs a day, *dati* two packs.

(Baliktad yata!)

* * *

Host: Were you happy when you won the contest?

Guest: Very! I was so happy, I was turning chartwheel!

(Chartwheel? *Bago 'yon a.*)

* * *

Host: Will the military get new weapons this year? If so, what kind?

Guest: The military will get new weapons, as scheduled, including some rocket-prepared grenades.

(Rocket-prepared? Oh, rocket-propelled grenades!)

Feedback

FROM **Leah Macatangay**: "I was recently able to watch some episodes of GMA 7's 'Digital LG Challenge' and was pleasantly surprised to discover a wholesome and interesting educational show for teenagers and children.

"The questions asked were age-appropriate and interesting, the pacing brisk, and the hosts animated and engaging. The program's tagline is catchy and worth emulating by today's youth: It's cool to be smart!

"This show is one bright star in the constellation of available programs for young viewers today.

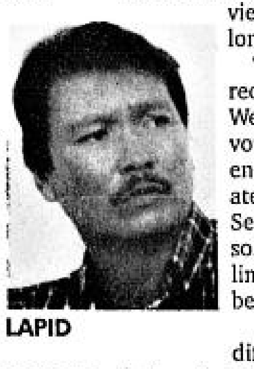
"Some suggestions: The outfit of the female co-host is not very modest—one shoulder exposed, etc. Young viewers need models of modesty combined with fashion sense.

"I know some people may find that statement outdated, but some values are timeless. One can look cool and fashionable without looking immodest.

"Next, on the choice of people to read the text trivia questions for home viewers: One Sunday, the readers were the Sex Bomb girls. I don't have anything personal against them, but I don't think the group should be presented to young people as models to be emulated. The people behind the show should be more selective in whom they choose.

"I hope you will look favorably on these suggestions as inputs to further improve the show as a vehicle for wholesome and virtue-inculcating TV fare."

Feedback 2



LAPID

FROM **Rose Taganas** of Calamba City: "Last Aug. 5, I watched 'INQTV' on Channel 5. I liked the first segment which featured an 82-year-old man learning how to use the computer for the first time. I congratulate the scriptwriter for doing a good job. It made me appreciate senior citizens more. It's a good idea for other barangays to follow, offering computer classes to seniors.

"Please give us more thought-provoking segments like this. People now don't watch TV just to be entertained, but also to use their minds.

"Another interesting topic could be mothers who give up promising careers to devote time to their children—like **Sharon Cuneta**, who's stopped appearing on TV to have a baby.

"It would be interesting to show how cartoonist **Jess Abrera** tackles serious and relevant issues in cartoon form. Also, to feature students and see how TV affects them. The networks have to be aware that they should project the culture of people today.

"I found the main segment last Aug. 5 on the suitability of the three actors now in the Senate too stretched. The interview of **Lito Lapid** was too long.

"I realized being a senator requires more than sincerity. We deserve the senators we vote for. However, Lapid was endearing when he immediately changed his attire when Sen. **Lacson** told him to do so. We saw that he knows his limitations and is willing to be helped.

"We know he will have a difficult time in the Senate but we have to help and not criticize so much. But I just had to shake my head when I learned Lapid had to have a simultaneous translator from English to Tagalog to listen to the sessions.

"In the final analysis we don't have to feature big stars to make a segment interesting. A well-thought-out human interest topic that stimulates the mind is also very welcome!"

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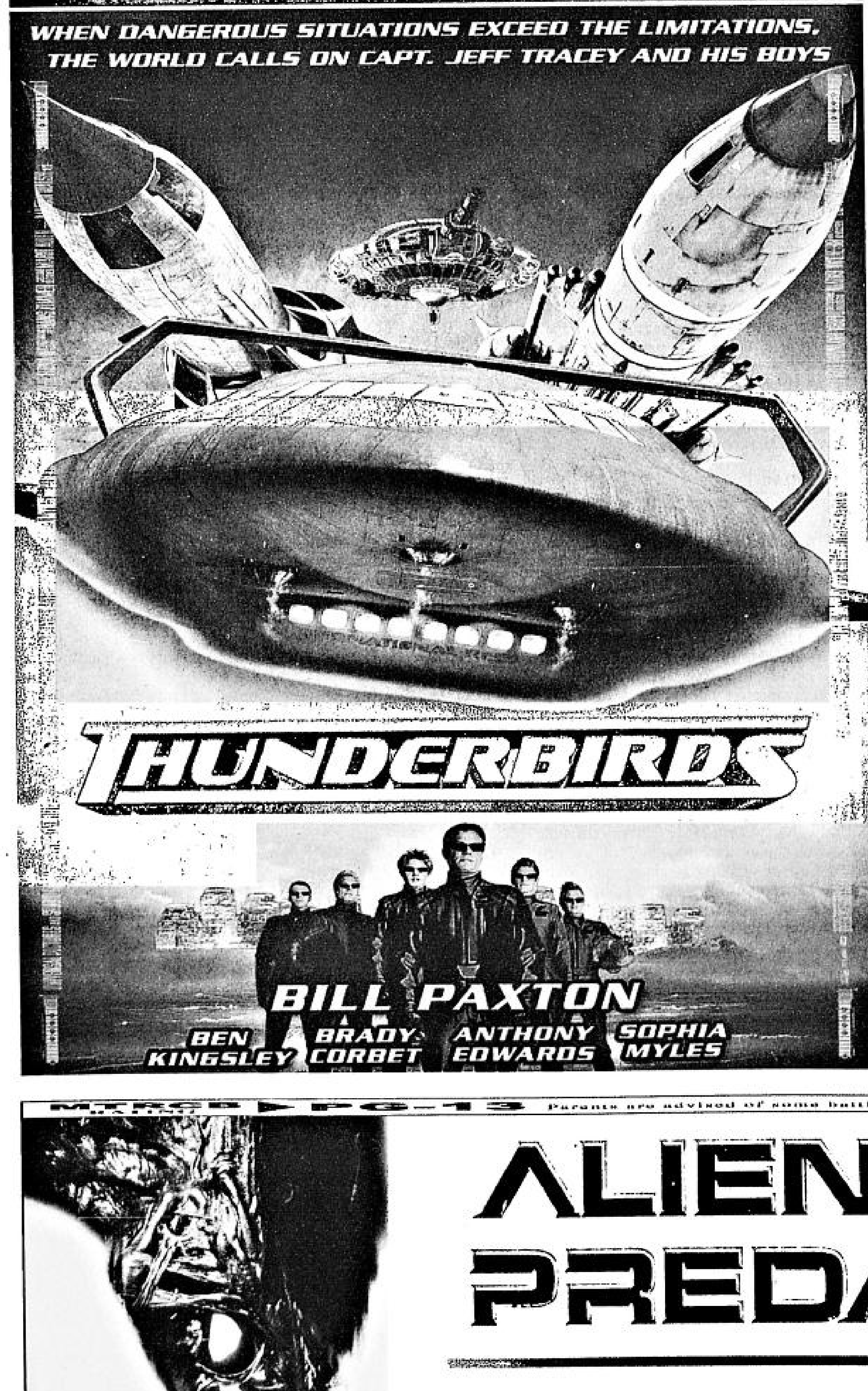

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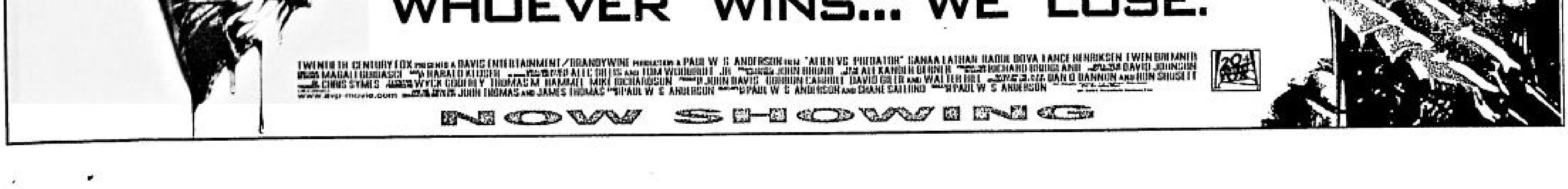
david duchovny nia vardalos toni collette

GIRLS WILL BE BOYS WILL BE GIRLS
CONNIE and CARLA

MTRCB ▶ PG-13 Parents are advised of some battle scenes that maybe inappropriate for kids below eight (8) years old



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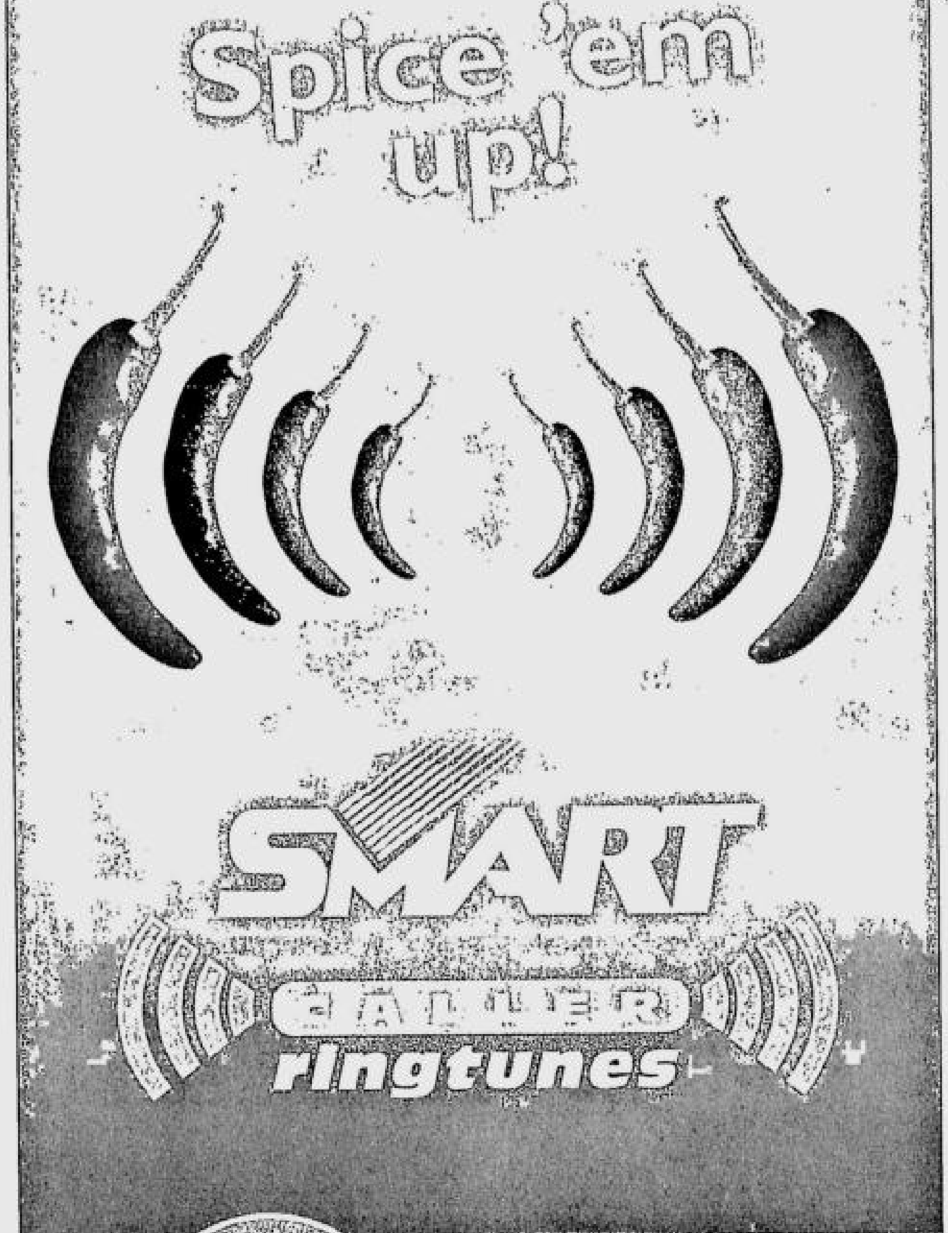

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Mandy Moore's life is 'pretty boring'

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
LA Correspondent

MORE, MANDY: "But I enjoy my quiet, boring life."

LOS ANGELES—"Outside of what I do, I think that my life is really pretty boring," confesses 19-year-old actress-singer Mandy Moore.

Casually dressed in a brown jacket, white blouse, and denim jeans, Moore clarifies that unlike her colleagues Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears, "I am pretty quiet."

Moore, in a Beverly Hills Hotel to promote her newest teen-comedy "Saved!," comes across as wholesome and sweet. She seems so naive that co-star Macaulay Culkin ("Home Alone," "Home Alone II: Lost in New York"), who appears as Roland, a smart-mouth, wheelchair-bound brother to her high school senior character, has taught her "how to swear."

Culkin, the former child superstar, reveals with amusement, "We were laughing at Mandy because she couldn't say some of the words we taught her!"

Zealous Catholic

Other stars in the film are Jena Malone ("The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys") as the all-around good girl Mary, and Susan Sarandon's daughter, Eva Amurri, as a punk, outspoken and rebellious friend of the characters of Moore and Malone and who is the only Jew in their school, the American Eagle Christian High School.

Complications begin when Mary's boyfriend (Chad Faust as Dean) tells her that he thinks he is gay. When Jesus—yes, Jesus Christ—appears to Mary in a vision, He tells her to do everything she can to help her boyfriend.

Thinking this means going all the way with him, Mary winds up pregnant. This sends her questioning her faith in God and finds that all her friends have turned against her. Mary is befriended by the school's outcasts and together they all learn something about themselves, find their faith in unexpected places, and what it means to be saved.

Asked if she is a zealous Catholic like her character,. Hilary Faye, Moore, who is Catholic, replies that she "wasn't finding any inspiration in Christianity in the beginning, but now I have a strong faith in God."

Moore believes the film is sending out a positive message: "It is about discovering who you are and what you believe in. It's about tolerance, acceptance and diversity."

'Anthem Girl'

Playing the mean girl in the movie instead of her usual good girl roles, Moore was "thrilled and blown away that they chose me for this role. People often see me in one particular light and I was really shocked and surprised to get this call."

Acting as the envious popular girl in director Brian Dannelly's first feature film, Moore recalls that she was never like that in high school because she was "more invisible."

Moore confesses she was "only able to go up to high school for a year. I was quiet and just did my work. I definitely was not in the cool group. But I was not with the outsiders. I was more in between."

Jesus-obsessed

The singer-turned-actress from Orlando, Florida, began her career as the "National Anthem Girl" at Orlando sports events, which landed her a recording contract even before she was able to get her driver's license. Her debut CD, "Candy," quickly reached the top of the charts and reached platinum sales in 2000.

Moore, who quickly crossed the line and began her television career as the Neutrogena spokesperson, also landed her own talk show series, "The Mandy Moore Show," which resumed in the summer of 2001 with a new title, "Mandy."

Making her silver screen debut, Moore played the bitchy cheerleader in "The Princess Diaries" opposite Anne Hathaway and legendary star Julie Andrews. In her 2002 film, "A Walk to Remember," Moore played the good girl in the syrupy teen love story. Another teenage love story, "How to Deal," was released the following year.

In her more recent movie, "Chasing Liberty," an opportunity for a new character for Moore came. She played a rebellious, overprotected First Daughter.

In "Saved!" Moore is the leader of the righteous Christian Jewels group and the official cheerleader for the Lord. According to Moore, her character "is like any other popular girl in high school but instead of being obsessed with boys, shopping, and music, she's obsessed with Jesus."

With controversy surrounding the film's satires on Christianity, Moore feels that "it's not mocking or mean-spirited. I just think it brings a sense of humor to the film. It starts out with some stereotypes but the film allows the viewers to see the reality of the situation of these people. It's just a little over the top but we break the stereotypes."

Blessed, lucky

Moore is hopeful about her movie career and wants to see herself "in something that I can completely throw myself into. Maybe something with a different accent. Just someone who's so far from who I am. I'd like to play someone who I know nothing about."

The vibrant and vivacious Moore feels so "blessed and lucky that I have my family to lean on" when things do not turn out as expected in her personal and professional life.

"I love my friends and the people I work with," she says and adds, "Everybody has his bad days. I do. But I do not let myself be affected by it. It is just a part of life. So I think it's a little weird when people think they know everything about you, including your personal life, when they don't really have a clue about what's going on inside you."

But after several years in the biz, Moore knows better and tries to be not affected by negative stuff. "I enjoy my quiet, boring life," she says with a winsome smile.

> 'I think it's a little weird when people think they know everything about you, including your personal life, when they don't really have a clue about what's going on inside you'

SINNER AND SAINT. Moore, as a religious girl, with co-stars Jena Malone and former child superstar Macaulay Culkin

'Where everybody knows your name'

SHOW TIME

ORIGINALLY, one of them wanted to be a chef. One wanted to be an architect. Another wanted to be a physical therapist and still another, a pianist. But they've been around together for 11 years—as Truefaith.

Even when they started, Truefaith had always been comfortable playing in places where rock bands ruled, as well as in ritzy hotels where pop-jazz bands reigned.

Now the band performs on Wednesdays at Aruba Bar and Restaurant, "where everybody knows your name."

Vocalist Medwin Marfil and the other members of Truefaith hang out regularly at the bar even when they're not performing, like on Tuesdays when Nyoy Volante sings with the Mannos, and Fridays during the gigs of Jed Maddela, Gail Blanco and Prime Council.

The others in the band are Jake Lumacad, keyboards; Bimbo Yance, bass guitars; Carlo Sison, lead guitars; and Eugene Marfil, rhythm guitars.

Performing on Thursdays is MYMP; and Saturdays, Mocha with Spin Art.

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Peso, stocks falter on 'fiscal crisis' woes

By Doris C. Dumlao and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FINANCIAL markets faltered yesterday on fears triggered by President Arroyo's admission that the country was amid a fiscal crisis.

The peso weakened to a four-week low against the US dollar, with skyrocketing crude oil prices adding to the fiscal crisis jitters.

Stocks also bled heavily yesterday after hearing the President acknowledge the fiscal crisis.

The local currency closed at the intra-day low of 55.975 against the greenback, almost hitting the psychological dollar resistance at 56 to $1. It shed 10 centavos from Tuesday's finish of 55.85.

While there was liquidity in the spot foreign exchange market, currency traders said bearish sentiment arising from President Arroyo's statement aggravated pressures arising from month-end dollar requirements.

A total of $209.4 million was traded at the Philippine Dealing System.

Although the President's statement was interpreted by the market as a merely a wake-up call for Congress to pass urgent tax reform measures, traders said it was enough to reverse the uptick shown by the peso in the previous weeks.

After testing the 55.60-55.70 levels, a trader from a local bank said the market's next target would be at 56 to 56.10 against the dollar in the next few days.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, however, stressed that the country may have fiscal problems but those were far from hitting crisis proportions.

"We're not in that situation now but we recognize that there's a fiscal problem and if we don't do something about it this will lead to a crisis," BSP Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Traders said the market agreed that the country was not in the same situation as Argentina and was far from defaulting on its debts, which was why the peso's depreciation was not too sharp.

Only last July, the Philippine government raised 350 million euros for its debt refinancing through the reopening of its eurobonds, the largest euro-denominated transaction coming out of Asia so far this year.

Meanwhile, the third quarter is usually a weak season for the peso as importers demand more dollars to beef up their inventory for the Christmas season.

In a separate interview, former BSP Governor Gabriel Singson said: "While we are facing very difficult fiscal problems, I don't think it's insurmountable, but the time to act is now. We should really try to reduce the deficit so that the confidence of investors will continue and we can access the global capital markets."

Victor Abola, an economist with the University of Asia and the Pacific, said he agreed that the Philippines was in a fiscal crisis in the sense that it was imperative to do something about or "explode within the next two years."

"There are a lot of positive points in the economy and this (fiscal burden) is the only area that is unsettling. Once this is resolved, we could move on to a sustained growth," he explained.

He noted that country would need to grow by at least 5.5 percent each year to make any significant impact on employment creation and poverty alleviation.

The economist said the Philippines should not wait for the time that it would have no recourse but to default on its debts because this would shut it off from the global capital market and cause a skyrocketing of domestic interest rates.

In the equities market, stock analysts and fund managers said the President's admission of a fiscal crisis was not a surprise to investors, but more of a wake-up call for the people to recognize the urgency of the problem.

"We may not be in a crisis yet but we may be nearing one already," Joseph Roxas, president at local brokerage Eagle Equities Inc., said.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange composite index tumbled 34 points or 2.2 percent to 1,542.01 yesterday, with total trades reaching P630 million. Losers pounded gainers 73 to 9.

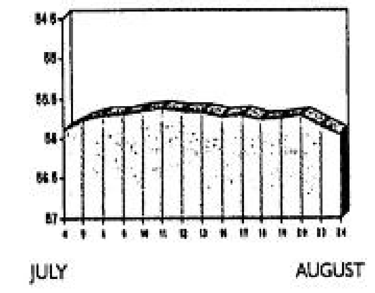
Luz Lorenzo, head of research at ATR Kim Eng Securities, said financial markets were naturally spooked by the word "crisis" staring at them from newspaper headlines but they did not under-

PESO/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



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August 24, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823384	1.000000	55.7820
Japan	Yen	0.007499	0.009107	0.5080
United Kingdom	Pound	1.489255	1.808700	100.8929
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105573	0.128218	7.1523
Switzerland	Franc	0.648590	0.787712	43.9402
Canada	Dollar	0.629980	0.765111	42.6794
Singapore	Dollar	0.481173	0.584385	32.5982
Australia	Dollar	0.590875	0.717618	40.0302
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.184100	2.652590	147.9668
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219564	0.266660	14.8748
Brunei	Dollar	0.479772	0.582683	32.5032
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000108	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019855	0.024114	1.3451
UAE	Dirham	0.224184	0.272272	15.1879
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.214500	67.7472
Argentina	Peso	0.274005	0.332779	18.5631
Brazil	Real	0.277047	0.336474	18.7692
Denmark	Kroner	0.134456	0.163297	9.1090
India	Rupee	0.017818	0.021640	1.2071
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216709	0.263193	14.6814
Mexico	New Peso	0.072214	0.087704	4.8923
New Zealand	Dollar	0.549289	0.667111	37.2128
Norway	Kroner	0.120999	0.146953	8.1973
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014022	0.017030	0.9500
South Africa	Rand	0.123522	0.150017	8.3682
Korea	Won	0.000714	0.000867	0.0484
Sweden	Kroner	0.109009	0.132391	7.3850
Syria	Pound	0.022790	0.027678	1.5439
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024274	0.029481	1.6445
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000430	0.000522	0.0291

STOCK MARKET

Stocks slump to 1-month low

STOCKS fell more than 2 percent yesterday after the government acknowledged that the country was in a fiscal crisis.

Traders said there was a negative knee-jerk reaction to the government's statement but buying should emerge soon, aided by a correction in world oil prices.

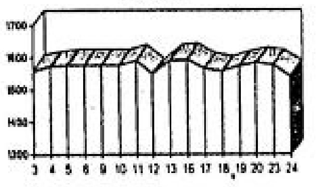
The Philippine stock index lost 34.17 points, or 2.17 percent, to 1,542.01 points, the lowest closing level in more than a month. It was also the highest one-day percentage loss since April, when the market turned cautious ahead of May's national elections.

Second-ranked telco Globe Telecom was the top traded stock, falling 3.47 percent, or P30, to P835.

Its main rival, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., slid 1.57 percent to P1,255.

Reuters

AUGUST



(See stock market report on Page B4)

World Bank remains confident on RP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD Bank has expressed confidence that the Philippine economy is still capable of turning things around despite fears caused by fiscal crisis being experienced by the government.

"This country is facing a very challenging fiscal situation, but the government still has the economic and political space to take tough measures to address it. We remain confident on the Philippines," World Bank country director Joachim von Amsberg told reporters after the signing of a loan agreement yesterday at the Department of Finance.

Amsberg made the statement after President Macapagal-Arroyo herself admitted the gravity of the country's fiscal problem, characterized by a huge budget deficit and

WORLD/ B2

FOREST PROTECTION THROUGH ECOTOURISM
Benguet Corp. president and CEO Philip G. Rumualdez (L) stresses a point during the formal turnover to outgoing Natural Resources Secretary Elisea G. Gozun of the recently concluded memorandum of agreement between the DENR and the mining firm. The MOA, considered a historic milestone, is the first between the DENR and a private corporation on the use of ecotourism development as a means of protecting 10,000 hectares of pristine fine forests, managed in the past 70 years by Benguet Corp., in Bokod, Benguet. PDI PHOTO/RUDY ESPERAS

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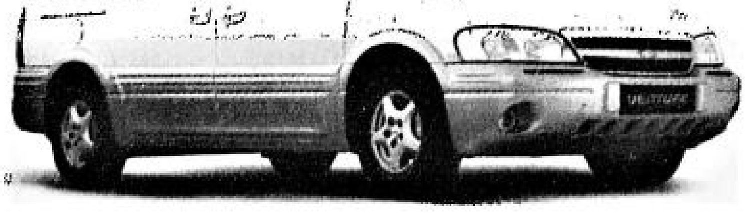

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Tighten telco regulations, Pagcor urges NTC

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE Amusement and Gaming Corp. has asked the National Telecommunications Commission to tighten its supervision of telecommunications firms to curb high-stakes gambling via cellular phones, especially among minors.

Citing news reports, the Pagcor told the commission that the "wagers are being made in the results of basketball games, or any game for that matter, through the use of present day mobile phone technology."

"Considering that yours is the specialized government agency that supervise, regulate and monitor the operation of all public telecommunication services as well as promulgate and enforce technical standards relative to such operations, we do consider that it would be in your competence to curb the problem," said Pagcor senior managing head Carlos Bautista Jr. in a letter to the NTC.

State-run Pagcor, which was authorized to operate and regulate games of chance, had noted the rampant use of cellular phones "in illegal high stakes gambling" among students and minors.

"The story is appalling being the unsuspecting youth as the clientele. We do believe that the solution on the issue lies on the stricter regulation of the operations of present mobile phone telecommunication franchise holders," the Pagcor noted.

The Pagcor has a pending petition before the NTC for four access numbers to send and receive text and multi-media messages as well as access trunks with Internet service providers or ISPs so it could operate games of chance through mobile phones and the Internet.

The gaming agency would like all text games to be coursed through numbers that Pagcor could regulate. These numbers are 888, 777, 878, and 787.

The NTC said it had not approved Pagcor's request because it wanted to ensure that minors would be prohibited from participating in text gambling.

"In the furtherance of its mandate as the exclusive provider of gaming activities in the country, and in order to generate revenue for the national government, Pagcor intends to operate games of chance through the Internet and wireless mobile cellular networks in the country," the Pagcor had told the NTC earlier.

Lepanto strikes gold in new mine site

By Christine A. Gaylican

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co., one of the country's biggest mining firms, has discovered a new mine site that could extend its gold producing days by at least another 15 years.

Lepanto reported to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau that it discovered a new potential mine area within its existing mine site in Mankayan, Benguet, which it named the Teresa Ore body.

Mining Tenements Division head engineer Leo Jasareno told the INQUIRER that Lepanto had sought incentives from the Bureau of Investments for the new mining project.

The Teresa ore body, adjacent to its Victoria I and II sites, has an estimated gold reserve of 110,418 kilograms.

This is on top of its Far Southeast project, which was expected to contribute at least another 60,000 kilograms of gold to the company.

Lepanto continues to explore for gold to take advantage of rising gold prices in the world market.

An ounce of the precious metal is selling for $405 to $410 in the world market, and there are signs that prices would continue to increase on rising demand.

This makes it appealing for local mining firms to accelerate operations to find more productive areas.

Lepanto is exploring in Palasaan-Suyoc, Binucong-Loo in Buguias,Benguet and in Tadian and Mainit in Mountain Province where it expects to get 6,221 kilograms of gold every year.

Labor problems hampered its exploration activities last year, but said it was making up for lost time.

World Bank . . .

From page B1

a ballooning public sector debt.

The budget deficit of the national government stood at P80.1 billion in the first half, slightly breaching the P79.6-billion target for the period.

The consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD), meanwhile, reached P51.1 billion in the first quarter, or higher than the P44.6 billion recorded in the same period last year. CPSD is the combined deficits of the national government, local government units, government agencies, and state-owned companies.

The World Bank official said that while the country's fiscal situation was "very difficult," the Arroyo administration's recognition of the problem and the action plans it has lined up are keeping the government well on track to solving it.

President Arroyo and her economic team—composed of Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima—have come up with eight revenue-enhancement measures that are aimed at easing the country's fiscal woes.

The measures include the P2 increase in petroleum taxes, the indexation to inflation of excise taxes on alcohol and cigarettes, a tax amnesty program, the rationalization of fiscal incentives, a two-step increase in the value-added tax rate, the shift from net to gross income taxation, the imposition of a franchise tax on telecommunication companies, and the implementation of a performance-based attrition system for government agencies.

Amsberg said all concerned sector, such as Congress and the public, should recognize the need to implement the proposed measures, as the executive branch could not do it without approval from them. All the eight revenue measures require legislation by Congress.

He said the World Bank was preparing a new assistance strategy for the Philippines that would take into account the country's fiscal problem. The new strategy would be the basis of the international lender's three-year program for the Philippines, he said without elaborating.

Amsberg said the World Bank's expression of confidence was very well reflected by the $60-million loan it has granted to the country's agriculture sector. The loan was the biggest amount it granted the country since 2002, he noted.

The Diversified Farm Income and Market Development Project, said the World Bank, provides the financial resource to improve the competitiveness of local agriculture and fisheries products, and to develop the market for those. The project will cover communities in the Visayas and Mindanao.

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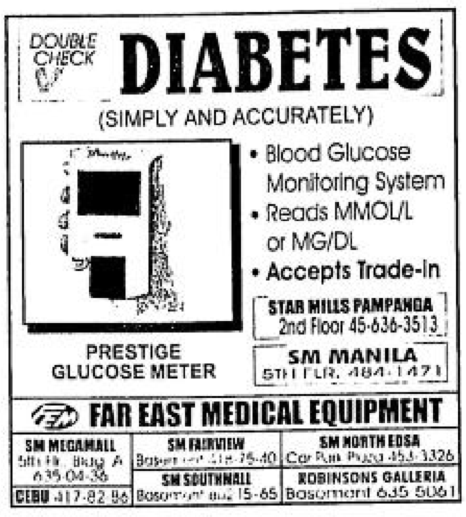
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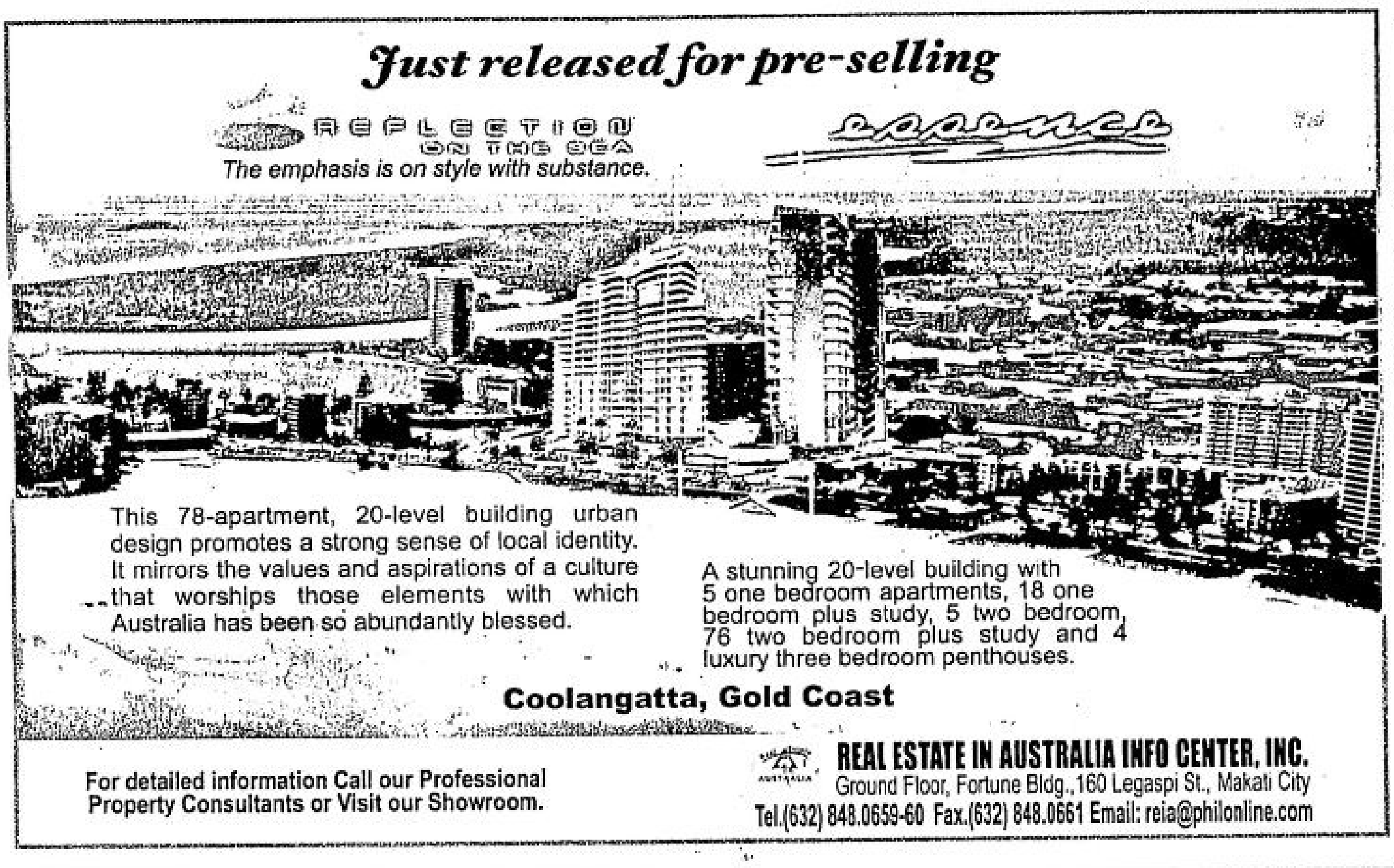
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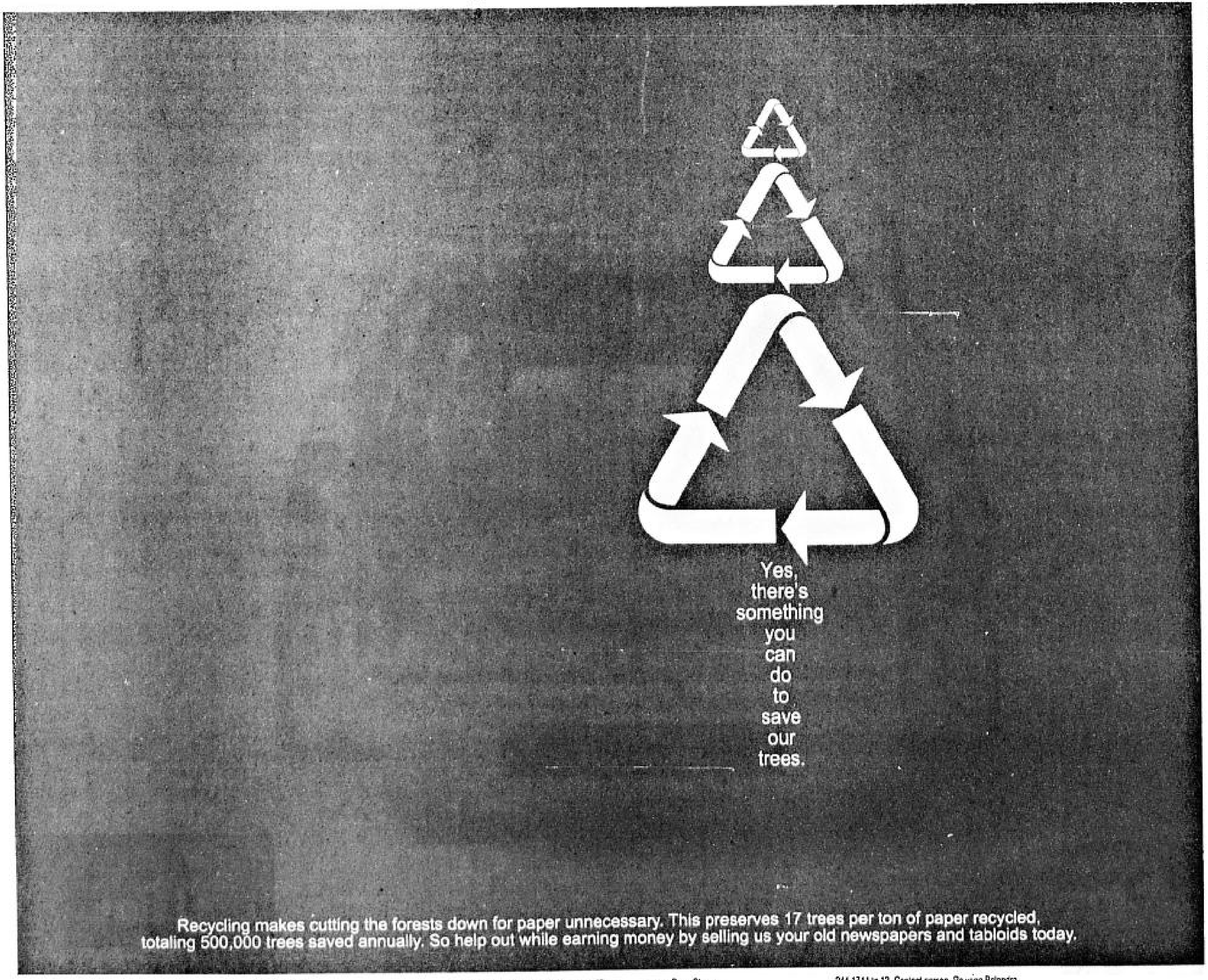
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

Funereal disarrangements

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE PATRIARCH is still comatose, but the children of construction magnate William Golangco with his first wife are already suing the second wife for the custody of the patriarch's remains.

Golangco, 80, has been confined at the intensive care unit of the Cardinal Santos Medical Center, the hospital he built in Greenhills, since he suffered a stroke on Aug. 4.

Less than two weeks later, on Aug. 16, three of the four children of Golangco with his late first wife filed an urgent petition with the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court against their youngest brother, businessman Rene Golangco, and their father's second wife, Ma. Teresa Syjuco.

"The petition seeks to enjoin the respondents from taking possession of the corpse of William Golangco, upon his demise, taking charge of his funeral and proceeding with his cremation," said Evelyn G. Cu-Unjieng, Marilyn G. del Bianco and Eric Golangco.

In addition, the three siblings are asking the court that their father, "in accordance with his expressed wishes," should be buried in the family mausoleum in the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque, where their mother is buried.

"Unless the respondents are restrained and prevented from carrying out their declared intention to have William Golangco cremated, the petitioners will stand to suffer grave and irreparable injury contrary to law and jurisprudence," the three added.

According to the grapevine, the second wife prefers cremation so that each family could have their own separate urn of Golangco's ashes and would thus be precisely spared from the public embarrassment of having to squabble over the patriarch's body.

But, looking at the court documents, it seems more than physical custody is at issue.

The patriarch wrote a holographic will dated Aug. 25, 1992, which he subsequently canceled on Sept. 28, 1996.

In that handwritten will, the patriarch bequeathed one-half of his estate to, and to be distributed equally among, his four children by his first wife.

The other half, the so-called free portion, he bequeathed to his three elder children, but not to Rene and his second wife.

That cancelled will also named Henry Lee, brother-in-law of the patriarch's late wife Agnes Uy, as the executor.

It is not immediately clear if a new will was executed before the patriarch fell ill, although, according to the Quiason Makalintal Barot Torres & Ibarra law firm, he was in the process of drafting a new one around March.

In the absence of contrary instructions, the Family Code bestows on the new legal spouse, not the children, the right to arrange for the Golangco's funeral.

Muddle over Martel money

THE LAWYERS of Melissa Mercado-Martel had wanted and successfully transferred out of the Makati Prosecutor's Office to the Department of Justice the preliminary investigation of the attempted parricide case against her estranged husband, Harrison Plaza heir Roby Martel. Unfortunately, the DOJ dismissed the complaint.

With these development, the wife has been placed in an even weaker bargaining position for any financial settlement with her husband.

According to the pro-husband grapevine, Melissa's lawyer, the New York-based Lourdes Cruz-Matters, had been negotiating with a US-based Martel family member for a financial package before the DOJ dismissal.

Bottomline? According to the grapevine, the Melissa side wanted P90 million in cash, plus a P16-million condo unit either in Rockwell or The Fort, plus a P2-million car; the Roby side, on the other hand, was offering P25 million in cash, as the price for peace.

Despite still being legally married, Melissa painted herself in a corner when she signed in 1988, only a year after their church marriage, a court-approved dissolution of conjugal property.

Three years later, with their marriage going nowhere, Melissa, a daughter of actor Luis Gonzales, also signed a "quit-claim" deed with her husband.

To compound her present woes, Melissa's parents have now reportedly moved into and are living with her in the Salcedo Village condo unit that Roby is paying for at P70,000 a month.

Laying the basis

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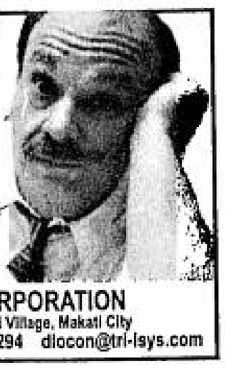
Eight students have so far been named the first recipients of the grant.

Heard through the grapevine

SUBIC BAY chief Felicito Payumo is smiling and shaking hands like a winner these days; the signals from Malacañang so far indicate that, in recognition of his credible performance, Payumo will likely be reappointed for a second term.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)



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Investments still coming, say US, European groups

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's statement that the country is in a middle of a fiscal crisis does not discourage investments at all, according to American and European investors.

Robert Sears, executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce, sad in an interview yesterday that the country might be, having fiscal problems but it was not in a crisis.

"Also, the Arroyo administration had laid out plans to address the problem and that is a good sign," Sears said.

"The issue now lies on the implementation of the solutions and if investors see that they (the plans) are actually being done, investments might even be encouraged," he added.

Sears noted that Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, himself, had said that Ms Arroyo was merely speaking rhetorically about a fiscal crisis.

Henry Schumacher, executive vice president of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, said his group was not alarmed at all.

"There is a situation and it must be addressed," Schumacher said. "I believe the President's statement was addressed to Juan dela Cruz."

He said ordinary people should understand the country's situation especially in view of the in]creasing prices of commodities, particularly petroleum products.

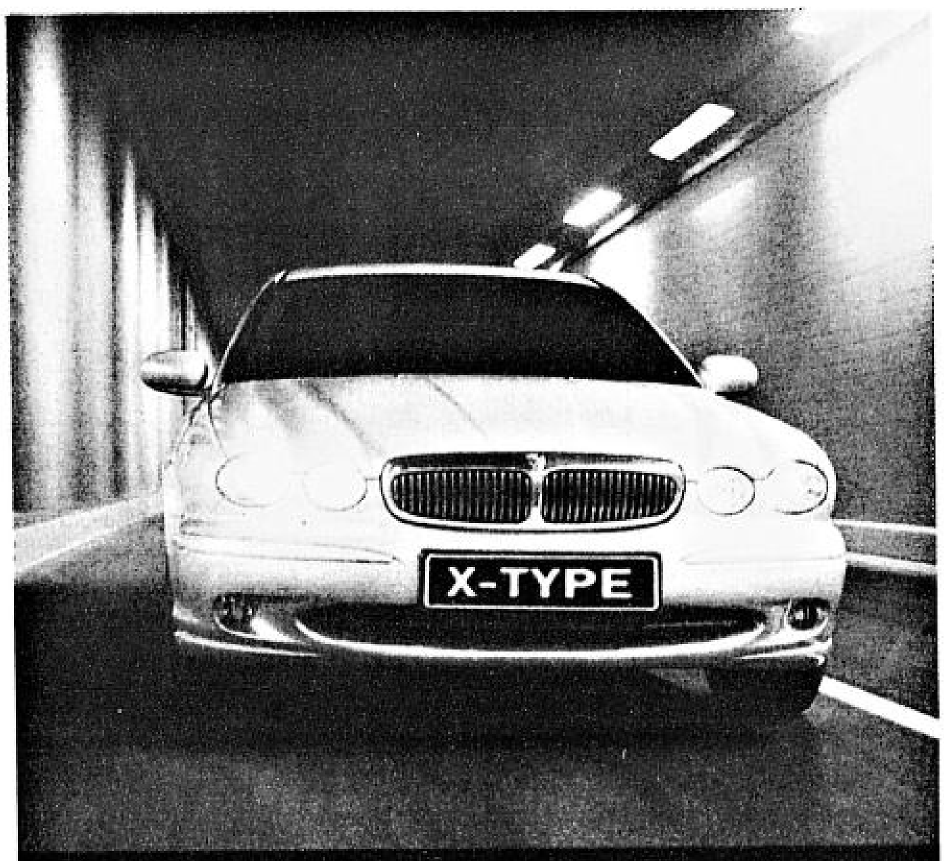
Schumacher added that Ms Arroyo's statement should send a signal to legislators that they can no longer sit on revenue measures pending in Congress, particularly those involving taxes.

"The bill on sin taxes, for instance, has been in the agenda for so long now, that must be addressed now," he said.

"The tax base must be expanded but the government must not make ad hoc decisions," the ECCP official said.

Sears agreed to this, saying that American companies doing business in the country welcomed new tax measures such as the indexation of taxes on cigarettes and liquors.

Both business leaders said the business sector must help in addressing the country's problem by paying the right taxes.



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HEARING ON OIL ISSUES

DOE chief apologizes to Senate

AFTER sparking the ire of some senators Monday, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez has nothing but remorse for missing a consultation meeting with the lawmakers on the current oil situation.

"I take full responsibility for having caused the displeasure of the honorable members of the Senate. While there may be valid reasons for my inability to be present in today's (Monday's) consultation meeting, I shall not offer (these) at this point," he said in a statement issued Monday evening.

"I would like to publicly apologize to the members of the Senate and express hope that they would extend (a) reciprocal gesture of understanding and forgiveness," he added.

At the same time, Perez sought the "valuable assistance and wisdom" of the senators in helping alleviate the pressure on the local oil industry arising from the escalating oil prices in the world market.

In an interview over dzMM yesterday morning, he said the Department of Energy would welcome suggestions from the lawmakers, particularly in relation to oil industry laws that could possibly be revised or amended.

PEREZ

In a related development, business leaders expressed disappointment over the "unnecessary name-calling resorted to by some members of the Senate" when Perez failed to attend a hearing held by the Senate committee on commerce and trade.

They were referring to the use by Senate President Franklin Drilon of the world "*inutil*" (worthless) to describe Perez's alleged failure to halt the increases of local gasoline pump prices.

Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz said the legislative and executive branches should work together to determine how to cushion the effects of global oil price increases on the economy.

"In fairness to Secretary Perez, he was able to convince oil players to lower the scheduled price hike last week by 5 centavos," he said.

Earlier, Perez also convinced oil players to go for incremental price increases in several installments instead of one substantial hike to prevent the skyrocketing of prices of basic commodities.

Jose P. Leviste Jr., vice chair of the Economist Corporate Network and chair of Polistrat International, echoed the MBC's call. He also lauded Perez's "gesture of humility by publicly apologizing to Senate President Drilon.

However, Leviste urged Perez to give the Senate a frank assessment of the constraints by the Department of Energy concerning oil price issues under a deregulated environment. *Abigail L. Ho*

RP seen to benefit from proposed safeguards on China's textile exports

THE LOCAL garments industry may gain a head start in trade liberalization if safeguards were imposed on China's textile exports before the removal of the quota system on Jan. 1, according to the Garments and Textile Export Board.

The GTEB, an agency attached to the Department of Trade and Industry, said in a statement that representatives of the US textile industry had stepped up their campaign for the continuation of the quota system for three more years. They are, however, also pushing for safeguards on Chinese garments.

The 1995 Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) under the WTO—which groups 146 nations—provides for the gradual integration of the quotas over 10 years, so that the quota system will be completely removed by Jan. 1, 2005.

China is expected to gobble up a big part of the world garments market under a quota-free regime.

The GTEB cited a letter to US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick from the American Manufacturing Trade Action Committee, National Textile Association and National Council of Textile Organizations, which asked the Bush administration to invoke the textile safeguard on China before its trade levels went up.

A safeguard means that China will remain under quota in 2005 while other exporters will be quota-free, a GTEB official explained.

"This will 'equalize' the imbalance that the quota-free environment is expected to create," the official said. "That will provide additional leverage for smaller supplier countries such as the Philippines."

The official said that the American garments groups also suggested that the US and other developed countries use commercially viable free trade agreements or preference programs as an alternative to quota extension.

GTEB executive director Serafin Juliano said this would give the Philippines an opportunity to pursue further free trade talks with garment importing countries and secure the clothing sector's position in a post-quota market.

Juliano said local trade representatives were keen on pursuing FTAs and preference programs with the US and other developed countries.

He said this was a major point in the Garments and Textile Industry Transformation Plan, which sought to enhance the competitiveness of the local garments industry. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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THE NEW FREELANDER
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T-bond rate up over fiscal crisis

By Michelle V. Remo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's pronouncement that there exists a fiscal crisis in the Philippines has prompted banks to seek higher risk premium, forcing an increase in the cost of government long-term borrowing.

The four-year treasury bond rate yesterday rose to 11.75 percent, or 75 basis points higher than the 11 percent recorded last month.

National Treasurer Mina Figueroa said the Bureau of Treasury's auction committee allowed the rate to increase to 11.75 percent because the figure was still aligned with secondary market rates. Bids higher than 11.75 percent were not reasonable and were therefore rejected, she said.

The auction committee rejected P2.655 billion worth of bids and accepted P3.262 billion.

Figueroa said that in the secondary market, the four-year T-bond already fetched a yield of 11.7 percent last Monday and 11.9 percent yesterday.

Although they sought higher returns, the banks still showed strong appetite for the four-year debt paper as tenders reached P5.917 billion. The amount of bids was higher than the P4.5 billion offered by the government.

"Yes, we are in a painful situation, but we are not yet in a fiscal crisis," Figueroa said during a press briefing after yesterday's auction, correcting what the President the other day said about the country's fiscal position.

Figueroa said the banks, whose investments in government securities might be affected if the country was indeed in a fiscal crisis, wanted the treasury department to explain the seriousness of the government's fiscal problem.

The national treasurer, stressing the point earlier raised by other economic managers, said the country was not yet in a fiscal crisis because the government could still pay its loans. Fiscal crisis only happens when the government can no longer service its debt,' she said.

The inter-agency Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC), the unit tasked to set the government's economic policies and targets, yesterday clarified in a statement that the country was not yet in a fiscal crisis.

The DBCC is composed of the finance and budget departments, and the National Economic and Development Authority.

"A fiscal crisis, as defined by international financial institutions is being in a state of default, and having a deficit that can no longer be financed due to limited access to the capital market," said the DBCC in a statement.

But Figueroa admitted that the Philippines might figure in such a scenario unless the revenue-enhancement measures of the President's economic team are passed in Congress.

The Arroyo Cabinet is pushing for eight measures, which are expected to rake in an additional P80 billion a year. They are intended to gradually reduce the budget deficit, which stood at P199.9 billion last year. Government hopes to wipe it out by 2009 or 2010.

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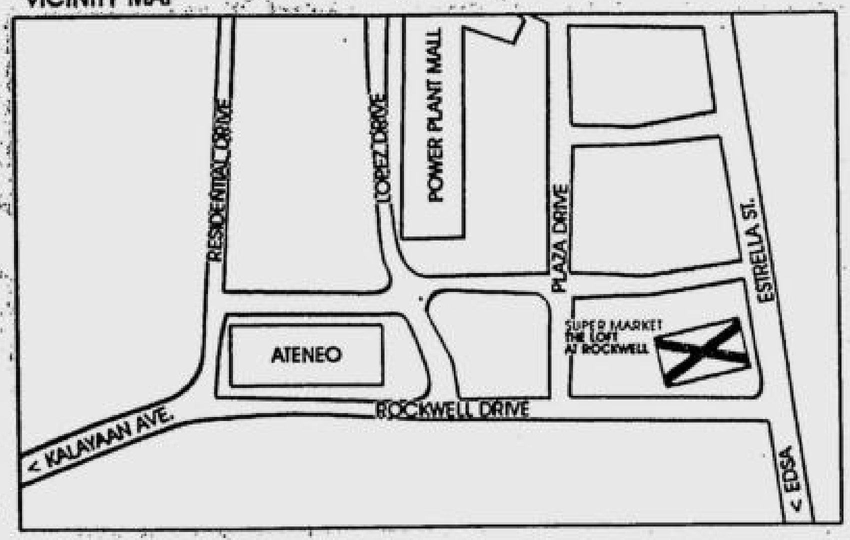

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RP to spell out trade terms with Japan

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILIPPINE officials are pushing for the reduction of duties on local agriculture and industrial goods set for export to Japan.

This would be the main point in next month's negotiations for the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, according to Joseph Z. Sison, Philippine agriculture attaché to Japan.

The country is still seeking full flexibility on both agriculture and industrial products to be exported to Japan, Sison said.

Officials are hoping that the JPEPA negotiations will result in the reduction of tariffs and smoother trade of agriculture and industrial products with Japan.

The Japanese wants the immediate tariff elimination for most industrial products, but only a gradual tariff elimination for agriculture products for a period of 10 years. Japan is also protecting its rice and fishery industries, said Segfredo Serrano, Agriculture assistant secretary.

But according to Serrano, the terms of the Japanese are unacceptable because, although the Philippines is a major agriculture exporter to Japan, RP still needs to look after its industrial goods such as its cement and steel industries which are now being revived.

The Philippine government is yet to provide full support to develop its agriculture and fishery sectors. Market access and post-harvest facilities are still lacking in major production areas in the country.

Highlands seen to earn ₱1B in condo sale

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY developer Highlands Prime Inc. of the SM Group said it has sold P1 billion worth of condominium units in its Tagaytay Highlands project called "The Woodridge."

Antonio Henson, HPI president, said in a disclosure that the property firm sold 98 out of 138 units of the upscale Tagaytay Highlands project overlooking the Highlands golf course and Laguna de Bay.

"We have turned over 70 percent of the units to Woodridge buyers within a period of 12 to 15 months," Henson said.

According to mall developer and HPI chair Henry Sy Sr., there are more projects lined up for the company as it owns over 500 hectares of prime property in Tagaytay.

The company's next project is "The Horizon" at Tagaytay Midlands. Phase One of this project will feature 14 clusters of 3-bedroom condominium units with an average floor area of 136 square meters. The property firm hopes to put up a total of 214 units.

The Horizon will boast of a panoramic view of the Midlands Golf Course, Taal Lake and Mt. Makiling.

The Woodridge is HPI's maiden project after its initial public offering in 2002.

As part of corporate restructuring in 2001, Belle Corp. organized HPI to deal with the high-end property franchise of Belle in Tagaytay. The immediate asset base of HPI consisted of over 502.5 hectares of land and 25 completed residential units and developed lots in inventory.

In February 2002, Belle and SM Investments Corp. inked a memorandum of agreement where SMIC agreed to buy 51 percent of HPI for P2.75 billion.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 24, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17	17.25	26,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	40.5	40.5	40	40	108,100
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	160
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	41.5	40	41	89,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	1,460,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25	25.5	24.75	25	400,800
Philippine National Bank	23	23	22.75	22.75	5,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	30,500
Security Bank Corp.	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	10,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.75	20,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	368,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2215	2220	2215	2220	290
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	400,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	110	110	108	108	600
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1515	1520	1515	1515	880
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.5	20.5	20	20	8,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.62	0.62	1,440,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	860	865	830	835	170,190
Ipeople Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	11,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.38	2.38	28,571,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1260	1260	1250	1255	49,280
Ivantage Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.66	0.67	5,030,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	105,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.25	14.75	14.75	128,900
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	23.75	22.5	22.5	1,605,700
Petron Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.38	2.42	3,156,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	43,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.16	1,951,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.26	351,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.15	4.15	4.05	4.05	1,833,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	350,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.34	1,200,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.78	2,840,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	511,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25	25	24.25	24.5	215,700
RFM Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	450,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	720,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57	56.5	57	65,600
San Miguel Corp. B	69	69	69	69	7,500
Universal Robina Corp.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	81,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	600,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	40,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	14,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.2	7,971,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	15,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11	1,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.14	1.14	540,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	60,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	25	25	24.75	25	91,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.49	16,050,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.125	0.14	0.125	0.135	1,240,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.205	0.205	3,400,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06	4,400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.68	1.68	22,438,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	100,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.1	3.1	128,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.75	24.75	24.25	24.25	989,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.0675	0.0675	7,300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.32	1.36	534,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.56	1.56	642,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	15,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Medco Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	2,255,000
Magnum Holdings, Inc	1	1	1	1	60,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.32	20,690,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.125	0.125	10,250,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	160,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	910,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	270,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	3,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.95	1.02	0.95	1.02	1,310,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	2,010,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.64	0.68	11,630,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	120,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	20.25	20.25	20	20	505,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	471,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	144,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.235	5,500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.235	0.235	5,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.92	0.93	1,720,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	340,000
City & Land Developers	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
Fil-Estate Land, Inc.	0.37	0.4	0.37	0.38	3,130,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	14,352,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.005	0.005	0.0046	0.0048	98,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.15	3.15	3	3	99,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	2,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,350,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	278,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	260,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	297,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	340,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	860,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	10,000,000
Interport Res.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	124,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	98,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	160,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.46	2.8	2.46	2.8	86,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	140,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,921,030	23,873,825.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	329,843,470	505,411,815.00
PRO	31,637,000	89,590,350.00
Mining	938,251,000	10,435,770.00
OIL	237,386,000	1,375,400.00
	AVERAGES	
GRAND TOTALS :	1,540,038,500	630,687,160.00
Bank & Fin Svc	449.89	DOWN 8.46
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,453.53	DOWN 60.27
PRO	511.41	DOWN 2.39
Mining	1,760.65	DOWN 51.18
OIL	1.74	DOWN 0.01
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	998.46	DOWN 6.34
Composite	1,542.01	DOWN 34.17

NO. OF ADVANCES: 9, NO. OF DECLINES: 73, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 116, NO. OF TRADES: 3,064

DISCLOSURES

VIVANT Corp. sought the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission in its plan to eliminate its deficit by applying its additional paid-in capital against the deficit.

* * *

FRANCISCO Viray was elected director of **Manila Electric Co.** to replace Edmundo Varona.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 80,000 of its own shares at P1.32 each.

* * *

CATHERINE J. Uy resigned as independent director of **IPVG Corp.**

* * *

CHINA Banking Corp. clarified that Danilo Alcoseba, senior vice president and treasury group head of the bank, retired effective Aug. 20 and not Aug. 31.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Peso, stocks falter on 'fiscal crisis' woes

From page B1

stand the situation right away.

"We will be in a crisis if we don't take immediate action. One of the recommendations of the study is to declare a fiscal crisis and cut the the IRA (internal revenue allocation). This is what the President is doing. This is not a popular move. The fact that she's taking it means she's willing to spend (her) political capital to solve an urgent problem," Lorenzo said.

Eleven faculty members of the University of the Philippines School of Economics said the country was facing an economic crash in two to three years in the scale of the Argentina collapse unless the government reined in the public sector deficit and its debt.

"In a way there is an overreaction. The development is not something that caught people who have been looking at the country's fiscal situation by surprise," Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc., said.

Proceso Mendoza Jr., head of investments and research at Banco de Oro Trust Group, said investors would likely review their strategies and shift their investments to government securities as a result of the uncertainty.

"If you are a positive person, you are looking at this as a wake-up call which could be an opportunity to buy selective stocks. There may be some follow-through selling (in stocks)," he said.

RP failed to reap benefits of previous tax reforms

By Rene G. Bañez

(Second of four parts)

SINCE the time of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, various tax reforms numbering to at least 300 have already been carried out for various reasons.

Unfortunately, only a few of them genuinely enhanced the tax system.

Most simply contributed to the convoluted tax system we now have.

As they are riddled with loopholes, they often subject the laws to conflicting legal interpretations.

"Tax reform" could either be tax policy reform or tax administration reform.

The former refers to who will be taxed, what will be taxed, and at what rate.

The latter refers to how the tax agency will administer and enforce tax rules.

The power of taxation is inherent in the state and is generally vested in the legislature.

Its exercise, however, is restricted by the following rules: "The rule of taxation shall be uniform and equitable. Congress shall evolve a progressive system of taxation."

Uniformity in taxation means that persons or things belonging to the same class shall be taxed at the same rate.

The Constitution adds that the rule of taxation shall also be equitable, which means that the tax burden must be imposed according to the taxpayer's capacity to pay.

Tax measures

In 1939, our tax laws were first codified into what was known as the National Internal Revenue Code of 1939, enacted through Commonwealth Act No. 466.

The Report of the Tax Commission of the Philippines in 1939 talked of three basic principles of a sound tax system, namely: fiscal adequacy, theoretical justice and administrative feasibility.

Fiscal adequacy means that the sources of revenue should be sufficient to meet the requirements of government expenditure.

Theoretical justice requires that taxes levied must be based upon the ability of citizens to pay.

On the other hand, administrative feasibility requires that each tax should be clear and plain to the taxpayers, capable of enforcement by an adequate and well-trained staff of public officials, convenient as to time and manner of payment and not duly burdensome upon or discouraging to business activity.

In January 1951, the withholding tax system was adopted by virtue of Republic Act No. 690.

This method of collecting income tax upon receipt of the income resulted to the collection of around 25 percent of the total income tax from 1952 to 1954.

. The withholding tax system helped achieve a balanced budget during this period.

To strictly enforce the payment of taxes and to further discourage tax evasion, RA 233 or the Rewards Law was passed on June 19, 1959.

Informers were rewarded the 25 percent equivalent of the revenue collected from the tax evader.

Marcos administration

Prior to martial law, taxation has consistently increased from 1968 to 1972.

The substantial rise in tax collection in 1971 was due to the enactment of RA 6110, introducing omnibus amendments to the NIRC, including the withdrawal of exemption from corporate income tax and expansion of the coverage of those required to file income tax returns.

Also, the then export tax was in force for the entire 1971, largely explaining the big boost in indirect tax collection in that year.

Between 1968 and 1972, there was a slight shift in the distribution of total collection between direct and indirect taxes.

In 1968, direct taxes contributed 26.6 percent to total collection. In 1972, it was 28.5 percent.

The relative share of indirect taxes, on the other hand, exhibited a decline in 73.4 percent in 1968 to 71.5 percent in 1972.

This can be a rough indication of some improvement in the income redistributive effects of taxes, following the widely accepted view that indirect taxes tend to be regressive and, as such, fall more heavily on the poorer segments of the economy.

It was in 1970 when each taxpayer was provided with a permanent tax account number (TAN), facilitating the identification of taxpayers and resulting to faster verification of tax records.

Similarly, under Executive Order No. 206, the payment of taxes through bank facilities was introduced.

This, and the implementation of package audit investigation by industry, contributed significantly to the improved collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

During the martial law era, various presidential decrees and letters of instruction were issued. On Nov. 24, 1972, Presidential Decree No. 69, amending certain sections of the NIRC, was enacted.

As early as 1972, the government already attempted to institutionalize tax reforms.

The taxes under PD 69 include income tax, estate and donor's tax, specific tax, privilege tax on business and occupation, documentary stamp tax, mining tax, miscellaneous taxes namely, tax on banks and on finance companies and amusement taxes.

The revenue-raising measures covered by PD 69 were directed at sectors of the economy that could absorb additional levies and those which were not bearing their proportionate share of the costs of government activities prior to martial law.

Additional revenues were expected from the withdrawal of certain exemptions (e.g., corporate income tax and compensating tax under PD 69 and tariff duties under PD 34).

However, subsequent decrees restored or revived with modifications some of the tax exemptions in meritorious cases.

The government was then of the view that while revenue is a primary consideration, there are equally significant objectives ought to be served by these tax reforms.

These are: redistribution of income and wealth, directing resources to priority areas, promoting equity, and strengthening the fiscal position of local governments.

Exemplifying the government's deliberate effort to make taxation a more effective income re-distributor is the drastic restructuring of the gift and death taxes and the reduction of the sales tax on certain essential food items under PD 69.

Incentives

However, various presidential decrees that gave incentives were likewise enacted.

To promote equity, PD 69 granted working wives with additional deductions and imposing taxes on business such as jai alai, quasi-banking institutions, and sauna baths. Improvements in tax administration were likewise introduced.

It was also during this period that taxation was used to enable local units to participate more actively in prosecuting reforms.

A closer review of the provisions of PD 69 would indicate that while some of the rates of taxes were increased, some were likewise decreased and while grant of exemptions were cancelled, some new incentives and exemptions were revived or restored.

From July 1975 to Dec. 31, 1976, most of the reforms introduced on direct taxes were in the form of exemptions.

Several reforms revised tax rates of some direct taxes and introduced new ones.

Increases in tax rates were also effected by PD 778 with respect to withholding tax on dividends received by a domestic or foreign corporation from a domestic corporation.

Administrative reforms have also been instituted, including PD 785 which imposes increased penalty on filers of false or fraudulent income tax returns.

For indirect taxes, four PDs increased the rates of taxes: PD 739, on insurance premiums; PD 753, on cigarettes, PD 820 on alcoholic beverages; and PD 874, on petroleum products.

Tax incentive decrees have been issued to: promote social activities; promote certain economic undertakings; grant relief under special circumstances; ensure establishment of adequate social services; and encourage investments.

In 1977, various presidential decrees introducing tax reforms were promulgated.

These include: PD 1154 which imposed a final tax on the interests derived from every commercial paper issued in the primary market; PD 1155 which increased the rates of specific tax on distilled spirits, wines and fermented liquors; PD 1156 which applied the withholding tax system on interest on bank deposits; and PD 1158 which increased the rates of tax on winnings in jai alai and horse racing and the share of the government from sweepstakes' total price fund.

On June 3, 1977, PD 1158, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code of 1977, was decreed.

This updated certain sections of the 1934 Tax Code.

In addition, PD 1351 expanded the withholding tax system; PD 1356 extended the tax surveillance authority of the commissioner of Internal Revenue; and PD 1457 delineated certain measures in strengthening the revenue law implementation.

Batas Pambansa 3 and 4 increased the rates of specific taxes on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages, respectively, while BP 5 imposed a tax on compounded liquors.

It was also during this period that the Omnibus Tax Law (BP 41) was enacted.

It amended Section 153 of the NIRC by increasing the tax rate per liter of volume capacity of Naptha to 50 centavos, gasoline and other similar products of distillation to 62 centavos and premium and aviation gasoline to 67 centavos and 55 centavos, respectively. **(To be continued)**

(The author, a former commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, delivered this paper at the Ateneo Law School, where he is a professor of tax law).

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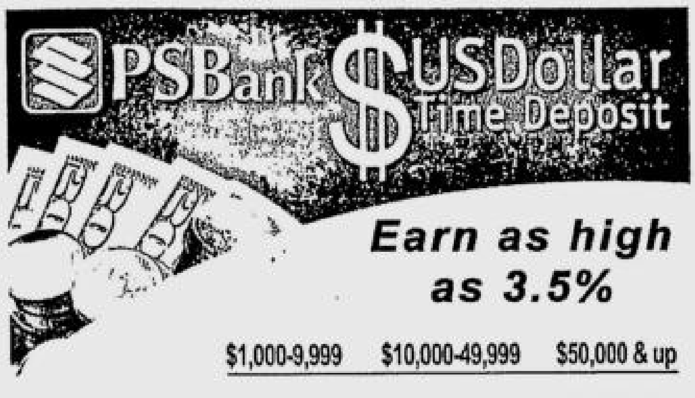

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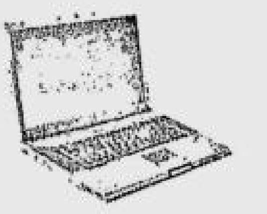

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For more info Call Tess at 8160997 or 09179166285

Calamba Laguna Lot & Warehouse w/ wall quarters waterpump electricity Landline: Call Linda 043-3181310 / 0916-3640009

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

FACTORY/WHSE

PASIG TAGIG AREA
LA7439m² FA3000m²
FULLY FENCED W/H2OTANK C6 ACCESS 0917-6251467 CALL 687-7325 • 656-0360

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

ONE BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA103, 75, 50 m² 9289541 / 7313055

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

KALOOCAN

2ND ST NR RIZAL AVE 2BR 2TB FA 72 P15T/M 7312110

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

T.SORA DFV QC 2BR 1TB P9T/mo 7312110 / 7312189

RIZAL

Robinsons Hms East Antipolo 2BR 1TB Grge 0920-9220228

LAGUNA

PACITA II BLURIDGE 5610197

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR FUR CTR PARK 8447524

MANDALUYONG

SEMI CONDO 3BR W/ TUB + CR W /GRGE LOOK FOR MARLYN 5338536/09163508758

QUEZON CITY

KANLAON NR LOURDES CH 31BR 3TB CARPORT FA 150 P18T/MO 7312110/89

PHILAM TOWNHOUSE FRONT EDSA Bldg 2 UNIT 7 7361925

APARTMENT

MANILA

2BR nr Espana nr Univ Belt
2BR nr P.Tuazon, near
Labor Hospital 421-6693

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel 7313035 7361925 9289541

QUEZON CITY

Brnd new studio type Proj 2
4342604 / 0919-2876641

SAN JUAN

APT NR WILSON CONAL 7261930, San Juan

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Magallanes Vill. 852-6918

Nr Chinese Gen 7118679

Sucat Pque 8257524/24hrs

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BEDSPACE

A/C RM for 4prsn 2400ea 9530642

Men A/C RM 2800ea 9530043

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181606/7586

MAYON NR RETIRO JOLLIBEE 2TB FA120 P22T/M 7312110/89

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSN DOC OFW 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Q.HIWAY NR MINDANAO FA250 P30T/M 7312110/7312189

MAKATI

OFFICE SPACES FOR LEASE (44m²- 627m²) TEL.#887-6003

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

97BMW 316I A1 525T 7211877

MITSUBISHI

RUSH SALE LANCER GLXI SPORTY LOOK Floaded 2727813

TOYOTA

'00Toyota CamryGlx Very Low Mileage 780T Neg All Power Prem Sound Call/Txt Manny 09164952193

TOYOTA Lan Cruiser VXR 97 Dubai version P1.5M Call Tere at 894-4917

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Delica Serena Estima Rvr Town-Lite-Hi Ace Vanette Trooper Pajero Terrano Elf Canter etc financing T-In 8328659 / 09202981098

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CAR VANS 410-0495

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

L-3/ADV 415-8473

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

Toyco U Drive Coaster / Car Vans Rental • 8023022 or 21

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REVO • VIOS • ALTIS • STAREX
CRLA • CRV • LYNX • 536-6822
303-9789 • 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN 3743803

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

25T New Compit Sr Impld 7767507

BUY/SELL

Educ Plan - 2528373 Ramona

EDUC PLAN Gie 7800106

EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control weight now 3758988

Tired N Sick? Take RE-VITA LIQUAHEALTH 09178479179

PETS

5mos. male Labrador pup w/ shots&papers. 13 red marks Kobe, Chuck, & Sunshadow line, call 0917-8915193 or 823-3110

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

★YORKIE PUPS M/F 8123216

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Mkti 893-0618 • G'hills 724-4374

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ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

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7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late MYRNA B. COLORINA has been extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc No. 143; Page No. 30; Book No. 99; Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty. Raul R. Olpindo of Marikina City. (PDI-Aug 25, Sept 1 &8,2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

DFNN (Diversified Financial Network Inc.) StockCert 0000170, 0000171, 0000172 (259,259 shares each) issued to EVOSERVE, INC. If no contest received new cert. will be issued. (PDI-Aug. 11, 18 & 25, 2004)

Notice is given that the RCBC Stock Certificate #681 Preferred C with 10,000 shares under the name of Joel Valencia and Paulina Potente was lost.If no contest received new certificate be issued.

Notice is given that the RCBC Stock Certificate #626 Preferred C with 10,000 shares under the name of Liwayway Hernandez was lost.If no contest received new certificate be issued.

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earnextranow.com code:atb2004
8531008 09178901851 Arlene

[illegible]

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Inc Income PT upto 20T/mo3732531

Need Xtra Income P/F Time 7126374

RTW Consign 09167940002

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Xtra Income upto10k 09176287177

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FEMALE

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P60/hr 18-21yr old single intelligent personable teach days Mon-Fri 4-7pm text resume 09195327685/7328515

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White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7248781 7272890

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JOB HIRING 09196913491 IRA

NOTICE OF LOSS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CERTIFICATE NO. A-2198 FOR ONE (1) PROPRIETARY SHARE OF THE VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, INC. ISSUED TO SOTERO H. LAUREL WAS LOST.
(PDI-Aug. 25, Sept. 1 & 8, 2004)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Urgent! Medtech/Pharmacist 4387288/0917-4923892Cyrus

Republic of the Philippines
Energy Regulatory Commission
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE STAEMENT OF COMPLIANCE AND COMPLIANCE PLAN TO THE PHILIPPINE GRID CODE AND THE PHILIPPINE DISTRIBUTION CODE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISION OF R.A. 9136

ERC CASE NO. 2003-257

MARINDUQUE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (MARELCO)
Applicant
x--x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MARELCO) on May 9, 2003 of an application for approval of the Statement of Compliance and Compliance Plan to the Philippine Grid Code and the Philippine Distribution Code pursuant to Republic Act No. 9136.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on September 7, 2004 at ten o'clock (10:00 a.m.) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or opposition on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable RODOLFO B. ALBANO JR. Chairman, and the Honorables OLIVER B. BUTALID and JESUS N. ALCORDO, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 27th day of July, 2004 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MARIA TERESA A. R. CASTAÑEDA
Director III

(PDI--Aug. 25, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of the Judicial Reform Support Project (JRSP) and intends to apply a portion of the loan to eligible payments under this Contract.

One of the initiatives identified in the reform program is the Judicial Reform Support Project (JRSP), which is being financed by the World Bank (WB). This particular initiative seeks to 1) improve case adjudication and access to justice; 2) enhance the integrity infrastructure of the Court; and 3) strengthen the capacity of the Supreme Court to manage the Judiciary. The project will be implemented for a six (6) year period, with loan effectiveness date commencing in December 2003 and closing in December 2009.

The JRSP involves the detailed design and implementation of various ICT application systems that will be seamlessly integrated as well as synchronized with ICT application systems being developed or to be developed under other judicial reform initiatives/projects.

The Supreme Court of the Philippines now invites consultancy firms to undertake **Consultancy Services for the Preparation of the Judiciary-wide Information and Communication (ICT) Systems Development and Integration Framework.**

For this assignment, Consultants are expected to define an over-all enterprise-wide framework or Information System Architecture and the associated Technology Architecture for the entire information network required for the Judiciary. Aside from formulating a comprehensive Enterprise Information Systems Plan, the Consultants are also expected to develop a procurement plan, Bid Documents using World Bank Standard Bidding Documents and assist in the procurement of the necessary infrastructure, information systems and implementation services. In addition, the consultants are expected to carry out an IT Capacity assessment of the Judiciary and to develop a capacity building plan to support the implementation and adoption of these information systems.

Interested firms must have the following qualifications and must possess expertise and experience in the following areas:

(i) At least 5 years experience in the planning, design, development and implementation of Enterprise Information Systems of comparable scale and scope in similarly complex country environments like the Philippines.

(ii) Informatics management and planning, with extensive prior experience in developing strategic systems integration solutions for Courts and other Judicial organizations in, but not necessarily limited to the following functional business areas:

- Case Management
- Court Records Management
- Capital Budgeting
- Financial Management
- Revenue Collection and Reporting
- Physical Assets Management
- Judicial Performance
- Personnel/HR Management

(iii) Development and implementation of ICT-related Human Resource Development Programs for organizations of comparable scope and scale.

(iv) Procurement of goods, works and services using procedures for World Bank financed projects.

Interested firms are required to submit not later than 2:00 P.M. on or before the 14th day following the date of the first publication on 25 August 2004 one (1) original and nine (9) copies of their Letter of Intent, Company Profile and relevant references to **Justice Presbitero J. Velasco, Jr.**, Court Administrator and Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee for the JRSP, c/o **Engr. Nestor U. Venturillo**, Head, BAC-JRSP Secretariat, 6th Floor, Centennial Building, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila.

The Consultant firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines on the Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002).

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offers, waive any defect or informality therein and accept the offer which it deems most advantageous to the Court.

23 August, 2004.

(Sgd.) **JUSTICE PRESBITERO J. VELASCO, JR.**
Court Administrator and
Chairman JRSP-Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Aug 25 & Sept. 1, 2004)

GEMRUS INC.

#2 Natib cor. Palali St., Barangka Itaas
Mandaluyong City

Urgently Needs

AIRCON TECHNICIAN / INSTALLER

Contact Nos. 535-0084 • 534-1055

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 115, PASAY CITY

In the Matter of the Petition For
Correction of Entry on the Birth
Certificate of Minor Child
CURTIS LEE BURGOS.

SP. PROC. NO. 04-0054 CFM

BERNADETTE J. BURGOS
Respondent.

x- -x

ORDER

Before this Court is a petition filed by petitioner Bernadette J. Burgos, thru counsel, praying that after due proceedings, publication and hearing, a judgment be rendered granting the petition –

1. Ordering the cancellation of the entries on the certificate of live birth of minor child CURTIS LEE BURGOS, with Registry No. 2004-968 recorded with Office of the Civil Registrar of Pasay City, particularly the information written on the portion indicating the father of the said child;
2. Ordering the cancellation of the entries found at the dorsal side of the certificate of live birth, with Registry No. 2004-968, showing the "Affidavit of Acknowledgment/ Admission of Paternity"
3. Other reliefs and remedies deemed equitable and just are also prayed for.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, notice is hereby given that the above entitled petition is set for hearing before this Court on August 25, 2004 at 8:30 A.M., at which place, date and time all interested persons may appear and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Furnish a copy of this Order to the Office of the Solicitor General, the Civil Register of Pasay City and the National Census and Statistics Office.

SO ORDERED.

Pasay City, Metro Manila, July 19, 2004.

(Original Signed) FRANCISCO G. MENDIOLA
Judge

(PDI-Aug 11, 18 & 25, 2004)

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PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

A Subsidiary of Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION OF THE PPMC ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

The Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC) invites interested contractors, with a license of at least Medium A (GB-1 Building and Industrial Plant) as accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), to submit Application for Eligibility, and subsequently to bid, if eligible, for the Construction of PPMC Administrative Building Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone, Poro, San Fernando City, La Union.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of P 8,000,000.00 shall come from PPMC corporate funds.

Eligibility Forms shall be made available to interested contractors on the date and place mentioned below upon payment of a non-refundable amount of two thousand five hundred pesos (P 2,500.00).

Schedule of Procurement Activities:

Activity	Dates	Time	Place
Issuance of Eligibility Statement Form	September 2, 2004	8am to 5pm	PPMC Office, Pennsylvania Ave., San Fernando City, La Union
Deadline for Submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Statement Form	September 9, 2004	12:00 noon	PPMC Office, Pennsylvania Ave., San Fernando City, La Union
Issuance of Instruction to Bidders and other Bid Documents	October 1, 2004	8am to 5pm	PPMC Office, Pennsylvania Ave. San Fernando City, La Union
Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection	October 4, 2004	2:00 pm	Pre-Departure Area, Terminal Building, San Fernando Airport, Canaoay, San Fernando City, La Union
Submission and Opening of Bids	October 18, 2004	9:00 am	Pre-Departure Area, Terminal Building, San Fernando Airport, Canaoay, San Fernando City, La Union

Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria. Thus, only eligible firms shall be invited to participate in the bidding. All Bids shall be evaluated in accordance with RA 9184 and its IRR-A.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the Project, you may contact Engr. Jose B. Karganilla at Telephone No. (072) 888-59-54.

(Sgd.) ANTHONY C. MANGUIAT
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Aug. 18 & 25, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Science and Technology – Bids and Awards Committee (DOST-BAC) hereby invites local suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid in the forthcoming public bidding for the project entitled "Upgrading of Existing Science Laboratories for the Public Elementary and High Schools in the Province of Pampanga" subdivided into:

Lot 1. Science Laboratory Equipment & References
Lot 2. IT Equipment and Software
Lot 3. Office Equipment

The approved budget for the purpose is P9,180,100.00 for Lot 1, P4,394,100.00 for Lot 2, and P241,800 for Lot 3 all chargeable against DOST Regional Office No. 3. The scope of works includes the supply, delivery, installation and testing of laboratory supplies & equipment, IT equipment & software and office equipment.

Eligibility forms and schedule of requirements and technical specifications shall be available for issuance to interested bidders upon payment for each lot of a non-refundable fee of P200.00 and P500.00 for the issuance of bid documents to eligible and qualified bidders. Only those eligible bidders evaluated by the DOST BAC shall be allowed to participate in the bidding.

All eligible bidders may secure the necessary documents on the following dates:

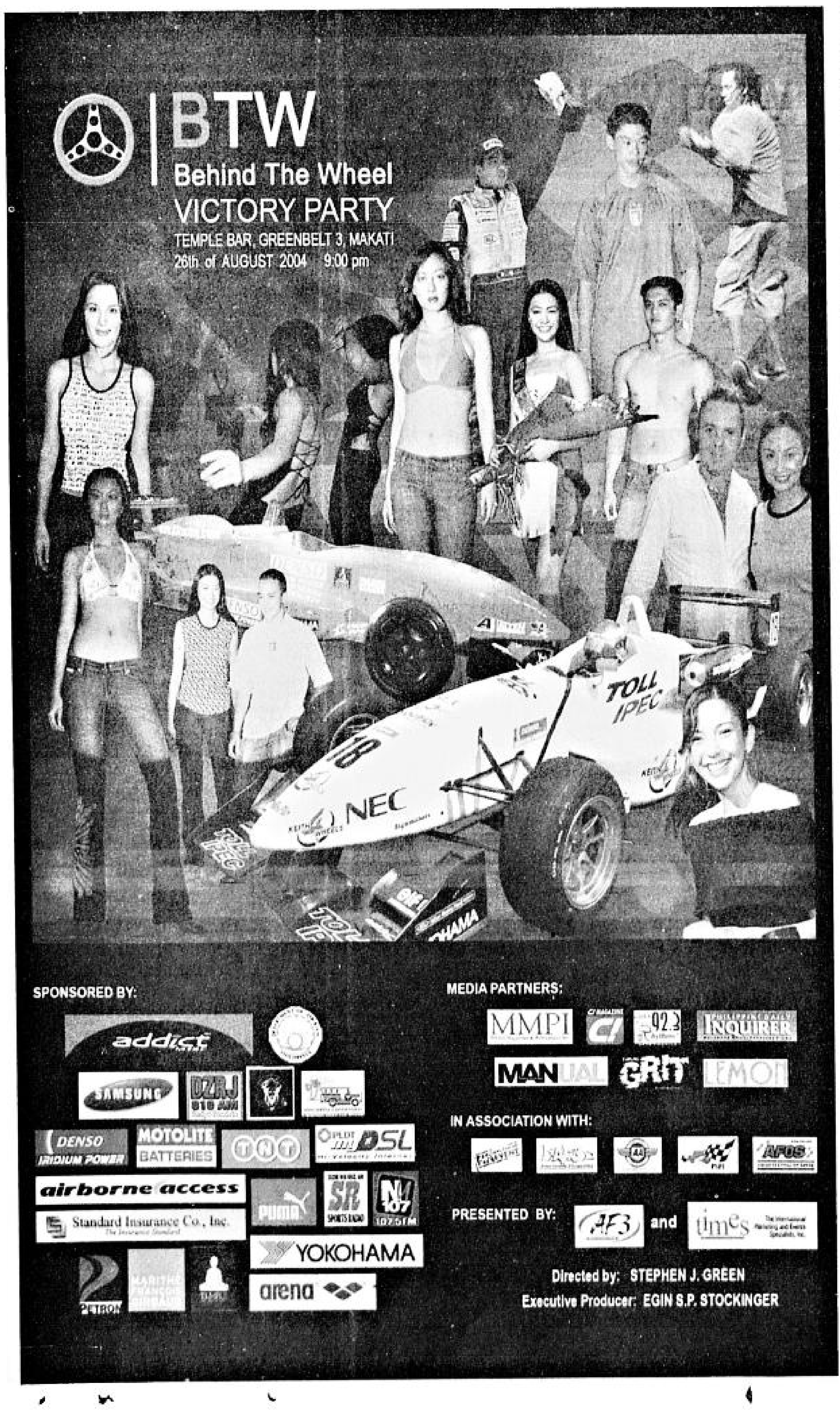
Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Schedule of Requirements & Specifications	September 01-03, 2004, Rm. 207 DOST Bldg. Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig
Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Schedule of Requirements & Specifications	September 06-08, 2004 until 5:00pm. Rm. 207 DOST Bldg. Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig
Issuance of Bid Documents	September 15-16, 2004. Rm. 207. DOST Bldg.
Pre-Bid Conference	September 20, 2004, 10:00 a.m. / DOST Executive Lounge, Bicutan, Taguig
Opening of Bids	October 01, 2004, 10:00 a.m. /DOST Executive Lounge, Bicutan, Taguig

Prospective bidders may surf our DOST website addressed at: http://www.dost.gov.ph

The DOST-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality and make an award to the bidder whose bid proposal is the lowest calculated responsive bid and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
Assistant Secretary and
Chairperson, DOST-BAC

(PDI–Aug. 25 & 31, 2004)



Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO BID

The Office of the Secretary of National Defense (OSND) invites interested parties to bid for the following requirements for CY-2004.

FORMAL BID NO.	GOODS	APPROVED BUDGET	OPENING OF BIDS
FB-001-04	Computer Supplies	P 1,500,000.00	Sep. 08, '04: 9:00 AM
FB-002-04	Office Supplies	P 1,800,500.00	Sep. 08, '04: 10:00 AM
FB-003-04	Janitorial Supplies	P 203,000.00	Sep. 08, '04: 11:00 AM
FB-004-04	Aircon Supplies/Materials	P 120,000.00	Sep. 08, '04: 1:30 PM
FB-005-04	Spare parts for ICT Equipment	P 1,400,000.00	Sep. 08, '04: 2:30 PM
FB-006-04	Printing of Official Forms	P 250,000.00	Sep. 08, '04: 3:30 PM
FB-007-04	Construction Supplies and materials	P 850,000.00	Sep. 09, '04: 9:00 AM
FB-008-04	Vehicle Spare parts	P 2,550,000.00	Sep. 09, '04: 11:00 AM
FB-009-04	Medicines (Medical/Dental)	P 3,900,000.00	Sep. 09, '04: 1:30 PM
FB-010-04	Medical Supplies	P 50,000.00	Sep. 09, '04: 2:30 PM
FB-011-04	Dental Medicines/Supplies	P 1,820,000.00	Sep. 09, '04: 3:30 PM
	REPAIRS/CONSTRUCTION		
FB-012-04	Repair/rehabilitation of 15 units Mini Cruiser	P 1,170,000.00	Sep. 10, '04: 9:00 AM
FB-013-04	General body repair & painting of 3 units Staff Cars	P 150,000.00	Sep. 10, '04: 10:00 AM
FB-014-04	Construction of DISG Motor pool	P 380,000.00	Sep. 10, '04: 10:30 AM
FB-015-04	Construction of DISG Armory room	P 250,000.00	Sep. 10, '04: 11:00 AM
	SERVICES		
FB-016-04	Subscription of Newspapers	P 256,710.00	Sep. 10, '04: 1:00 PM
FB-017-04	Pest Control	P 136,500.00	Sep. 10, '04: 1:30 PM
FB-018-04	Janitorial services	P 1,075,000.00	Sep. 10, '04: 2:00 PM
FB-019-04	Purified water	P 147,840.00	Sep. 10, '04: 3:00 PM
FB-020-04	Rental of Copier Machines	P 924,000.00	Sep. 10, '04: 4:00 PM
FB-021-04	Maintenance of Aircon units	P 239,584.00	Sep. 10, '04: 4:30 PM

Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference/Technical Specifications and bidding forms are available at the BAC-DND Secretariat at the ground floor of DND Building, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Copies of the same shall be made available at the cost of P300.00 or .01% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), whichever is higher. For more information you may visit and/or contact the BAC-TWG, Administrative Services, OSND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Telephone number 911-8118.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled on August 26, 2004 from 8:30 to 10:30 AM for Goods, 10:30 to 12:00 noon for Repair/Construction and 2:00 to 3:30 PM for Services at the Department of National Defense Training Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The deadline for submission of bids shall be on the date of the above-mentioned scheduled bidding to be followed by the opening of bids at the Department of National Defense Training Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidders whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the OSND Single Bids and Awards Committee (OSND Single BAC).

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOSE N. FERRER JR
Assistant Secretary
Chairman, Single Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – August 18 & 25, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
email: pid@info.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the single-stage bid process for the **Supply and Delivery of two units of Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat** for the Philippine Navy with an approved budget ceiling of **Thirty Eight Million Four Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 38,400,000.00)**. Budget is chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program Funds.

Only bids from manufacturers or their duly authorized representatives of the Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat shall be entertained.

Bid documents are available for issuance starting **August 18, 2004 until September 23, 2004** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The bid documents shall be issued upon payment of a **Three Thousand Eight Hundred (Php 3,800.00)** fee, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **September 9, 2004 at 1:30 PM** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are encouraged to submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of bid envelopes is on **September 24, 2004** at **9:00 AM** (local time) and immediately followed by the opening of bids at the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds for disqualification specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder(s) in the preparation of the bid.

(Original Signed)
REYNALDO D RIVERA
Major General, AFP
Chairman, AFP-BAC

(PDI – August 18 & 25, 2004)

In appreciation of the opportunity given him to work on board, **Mr. Kim Palomero** (in photo, right), a utility cleaner on board the cruise liner Royal Princess, wrote **Ms. Doris Magsaysay Ho** (President and CEO of **Magsaysay Maritime Corporation**) about the Employee of the Month award he received recently. A lot of Magsaysay's crew have received this award, but what distinguishes Mr. Palomero is that he remembered to tell Ms. Ho and sent her the good news as well as photos to show his gratitude for getting the job. Mr. Palomero bested other employees on board the Royal Princess to win the award for his "hard work and dedication towards providing excellent customer service." Also in the photo is Royal Princess ship captain Nick Carlton. Cruise liner Royal Princess is part of the Princess Cruises fleet, one of Magsaysay's principals. Magsaysay is one of the country's leading overseas shipboard employment agencies and has been a consistent POEA performance awardee since 1984.

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
"The newly opened Mortuary & Crematory at the Heritage Park"
Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
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OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

On the Occasion of the

10th Death Anniversary of

NINA ESTRADA PUYAT

on August 26, 2004

Masses will be offered in the following churches:

1) SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO .... 6:15 and 7:30 am; 12:15 and 6:00 pm
Forbes Park, Makati
2) COLEGIO DE SAN AGUSTIN CHAPEL .... 6:45 am; 6:45 pm
Dasmariñas Village, Makati
3) ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH .... 6:30 am, 7:30 am; 12:15 pm, 6:00 pm
Pasay Road, Makati
4) STO. NIÑO DE PAZ CHAPEL .... 7:15 am; 5:45 pm
Greenbelt, Makati
5) ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE .... 6:30 am; 6:30 pm
62 Constellation St., Bel-Air
6) ST. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI CHURCH .... 6:15 am; 6:00 pm
Magallanes Vill., Makati
7) OUR LADY OF EDSA SHRINE .... 6:30 am; 7:00 pm
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave.
8) ST. FRANCIS DE ASSISI CHURCH .... 6:15 am; 6:00 pm
Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong
9) CHRIST THE KING .... 7:00 am; 6:00 pm
Greenmeadows
10) PHIL. STOCK EXCHANGE CHAPEL .... 12:15 pm
Tektite, Ortigas Center

REV. FR. SALVADOR BAISAS VIOLA JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 23, 2004 at the age of 60.

His bereaved sisters, **Dra. Carmelita** and **Nancy**; brother **Lino**; sister-in-law **Felicisima**; nieces **Lallaine, Myla, Rose Ann, Angelique** and nephews **Lino Marcus III** and **Joseph**; other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Body will be transferred to Doña Remedios Trinidad Bulacan on August 25 and will be brought back to St. Peter Memorial Chapels on August 26, 2004.

Interment will be on Friday, August 27 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park.

"I am ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have kept the faith." (Tim. 4: 6-8)

Sir Knight P/Maj. Silvestre Mella Moran

(St. Stephen Council)

Peacefully joined his Creator on the 15th of August 2004, at the age of 69.

His bereaved mother **Gliceria**, loving wife **Evelyn**, children **Salvador**, **Marie Agnes** and **Samuel** (†); daughters-in-law **Nenita** and **Edna**; son-in-law **Gregorio**, grandchildren, sisters, nephews and nieces and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence in Centro Occidental, Polangui, Albay.

Interment will take place on Sunday, 29th of August 2004 at 7:00 a.m.

Most Rev. Jose F. Oliveros, D.D.
the Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of Malolos
extend their sincerest prayers and condolences
to the relatives and friends of

REV. FR. SALVADOR B. VIOLA, JR.

who peacefully joined his Creator, our Loving Father on August 23, 2004 at the age of 60.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Chapel at Quezon Ave., Quezon City. On August 25 (Wednesday) 5:00 a.m. (whole day only) his remains will be brought at Nuestra Señora de Lourdes Parish at Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan.

A requiem Mass will be offered on Friday, August 27, 2004, 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, QC.

"Living or Dying, Lord Jesus, I would be Yours,
Keep me Your own forever.
Draw me day by day nearer to You
Until I am wholly filled with your Love."

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..." — *Psalm 21:15*

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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965 Del Monte Ave., Frisco, Quezon City;
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Tels. 942-6044, 475-1177
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219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
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Tels. (045) 888-2959; (045) 322-5247
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No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City;
Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila;
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107 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas, Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
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865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City, Tels. 890-3556; 899-6191
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Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
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Tels. 651-1711, 651-0737
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143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
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Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3678, Telefax 941-3577
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No. 6 Carigma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782, 697-0026, 650-7426, Fax. 697-2764
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City,
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
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Tels. 427-8412, 4278403
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438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City;
Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City,
Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City, Tels. 852-0228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila, Tels. 749-3879, 781-1772
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298 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Tels. 372-5084, 410-9286/87
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CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 6
Brgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The National Food Authority, Region 6, with its office at Brgy. Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City invites all interested buyers to participate in the auction for the total of 209,730.03 Lkg Raw Sugar at the indicative price of P780.00/Lkg located at different sugar centrals in Negros Occidental:

PROVINCE	SUGAR CENTRAL	Quantity in Lkg
Negros Occ.	VMC	123,062.01
	LOPEZ	66,224.14
	FFHC	20,433.88
	TOTAL	209,730.03

The sale shall be on a "Per Mill" basis.

All interested buyers are required to post a bond equivalent to 10% of the total amount offered in the form of Cash / Manager's / Cashier's Check payable to NFA. A pre-auction conference will be conducted before the auction proper.

Interested buyers shall submit the following documents to the Bidding Committee during the pre-auction conference:

1. Original and one (1) Certified photo copy of sugar trading license/registration.
2. Duly notarized Special Power of Attorney from the single proprietor or Board Resolution from the Secretary/Chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the entity as an official / employee/stockholder and is authorized to represent in the auction and all activities pertinent therein.

The auction shall be conducted at the NFA – Iloilo Regional Office on the following schedule:

Venue of Pre-Auction Conference And Auction Proper – Conference Room, 2nd Floor NFA, Iloilo Regional Office Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Pre-Auction Conference – August 30, 2004, 10:00 A.M.
Auction Proper – Right after Pre-Auction Conference

Bidding documents and tender forms can be secured at NFA Iloilo Regional Office after payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00, starting August 25 to 27, 2004, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are deemed most reasonable and advantageous to the National Food Authority.

For more details, please contact RBAC Chairperson or Ms. Marilou M. Paguntalan at Telephone Nos. (033) 320-62-46 and 329-21-65.

(Sgd.) VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
RBAC Chairperson

(PDI – August 25 & 26, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-64-01/ (632) 920-64-46
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web Site http://www.sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System ("SSS") is inviting interested parties to bid for the purchase of One Hundred Eighty Seven Million Eight Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One (P187,847,891) common shares of Equitable PCI Bank, Inc., with par value of Ten Pesos (P10.00) per share (the **"EPCIB Shares"**), which shares shall be sold as a block.

Interested parties may secure copies of: (a) the Instructions to Bidders, and annexes; and (b) the Bid Forms, after registration and payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) or equivalent in US Dollars from the office of the Special Bids and Awards Committee (**"SBAC"**), 7th Floor SSS Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

All prospective bidders must submit a complete set of Pre-qualification Documents and their Bids together with the Bid Security to the SBAC Office not later than 12:00 noon of 20 October 2004.

The winning bidder who shall post a Performance Security prior to being declared as such, shall be obliged to execute a Share Purchase Agreement with the SSS within seven (7) days from the receipt of the Notice of Award. If the winning bidder refuses or fails to execute the Share Purchase Agreement, the Bid Security as well as the Performance Security shall be forfeited in favor of SSS.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality therein, or to accept such bids as may be advantageous to the SSS without giving any reason therefor.

The result of the bidding is subject to the right of BDO Capital and Investment Corporation to match the highest bid and notice is given that title to the EPCIB Shares may be affected by the final decision in pending cases described in the Instructions to Bidders involving the EPCIB shares.

For more information, please contact ***Mr. Nazario S. Cabuquit, Jr.*** at telephone numbers **924-7364** and **927-2337**.

Chairman
Special Bids and Awards Committee
For the Public Auction of SSS' EPCIB Shares

(PDI – August 23, 24 & 25, 2004)

LAD-ID SCPN & DSTRN Annex B
CARP Form No. 5 (a)
Revised 2003

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Region 10
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
City Agrarian Reform Office
Malaybalay City

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

Pursuant to section 7 of R.A. No. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform law of 1988, the Republic of the Philippines, thru the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), hereby subjects under the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program your landholding with the following description

Name of Landowners	Title #	TD #
Adoracion Mendoza	T-7396	059-13-012-18-013
Adoracion Mendoza	T-498	059-13-012-18-011
Angelita Mendoza	P-1915	059-13-012-18-016
Bartolome Mendoza	P-1916	059-13-012-14-001
Adoracion Mendoza	P-1917	059-13-012-18-014
Adoracion Mendoza	P-1918	059-13-012-18-007

Registry of Deeds of Bukidnon
Approximate total area – **120 hectares more or less**
Location – **Aglayan, Malaybalay City**

In this connection, we invite you to a field investigation and/or public hearing which we shall conduct on September 16, 2004, at Aglayan, Malaybalay City.

Whenever applicable, you have the right or privilege to:

1. Apply for an exemption clearance or for exclusion from CARP coverage;
2. Retain an area not exceeding five (5) hectares pursuant to Section 6 of RA 6657;
3. Nominate your children who may qualify as beneficiaries to the subject landholding; and/or
4. Submit evidence for determining just compensation of the subject landholding.

To exercise any of the above landowner rights/privileges, the necessary application or petition should be filed before the Government incurs any expense necessary for acquisition and distribution of the subject landholding, not later than 60 calendar days from receipt of this Notice of coverage. Any late legal action that may be taken beyond the said 60-day period, resulting in the nullification of this CARP proceeding, shall hold you liable for the reimbursement of all expenses that the Government has spent for acquisition and distribution of the subject landholding.

Failure to file the proper application for retention within 60 days from receipt of this Notice of Coverage is deemed a waiver of the right to retention under Section 6 RA 6657, in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the DAR. Within 30 from filing of the application, you shall submit to the Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer (MARO) a sketch map of the area you wish to retain, failure to do so within said 30-day period constitutes an authorization for the MARO to choose the retention area in your behalf. The DAR may disapprove your choice of retention area if not compact and contiguous.

The privilege to nominate your children who may qualify as beneficiaries is waived if you fail to submit to the MARO, within 60 days from receipt of this Notice of Coverage, the proper application with the complete names of your nominees, their addresses, birth dates, and other relevant information in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the DAR.

The right to question the valuation of your landholding is waived if you fail to submit to the MARO, within 60 days from receipt of this Notice of Coverage, a Statement of Production and Net Income (Annex "A" of A.O. No. 1, Series of 2003) and other evidence necessary for determining just compensation under Section 17 of RA 6657, in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the DAR.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 405, dated 14 June 1990, the DAR shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) to determine the land value of the subject landholding. You will receive an update as soon as the DAR receives the LBP's Memorandum of Valuation.

(Sgd.) ALEXANDRA T. BAHIAN
City Agrarian Reform Officer

(PDI-Aug 11, 18 & 25 2004)

AUCTION
www.henrybutcher.com
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AUCTION SALE: THURSDAY 26TH AUGUST 2004 - 2:00PM
OFFSET PRINTING EQUIPMENT - MILLER TP35 Perfector Two Color Offset Printing Press, INVICTA 38-R One Colour Offset Printing Press
FOLDING/CUTTING - POLAR 107-EL Paper Cutter; BAUM Folding Machine w/ Feeder
FILM DEVELOPING - BERKLY PLATE BURNER; NUARC P548 Plate Wash Station; AGFA Rapidline 17 Digital Film Processor; LINOTRONIC L330; (2) L300 Image Setters; (3) LINOTRONIC Linotype Image Setters
DESIGN HARDWARE - POWERMAC G4 with 80GB HDD, POWERMAC G4 w/ 20GB; POWERMAC G4 w/ 10GB HDD Personal Computers
MISCELLANEOUS - Transformers, Computer Tables, Film Filing System, Panel Board etc.
Viewing: Thursday 26th August 2004 - 9am - 2pm
Viewing Location: 2644 A Bonifacio St., Bangkal, Makati, Philippines
Refundable Deposit (PhP20,000) Upon Registration
Please bring valid ID to be presented during registration
GoIndustry Henry Butcher
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC

Chris Sports is proud to present the **"Chris Sports Inter-Collegiate Badminton Challenge"** on Aug. 27 to 29. This will be held at the Atrium of Robinson's Place Manila. Chris Sports invites colleges and universities to join the event. This badminton challenge aims to promote goodwill among the college students of different universities thru sports. This will help the youth develop their sportsmanship and teamwork. There will be the men's, women's and mixed doubles categories. Each school must be represented by 10 students from their colleges. The school with the highest score gets the Championship title. "Chris Sports Inter-Collegiate Badminton Challenge" is made possible by **Chris Sports** and in cooperation with **Tronex** - the event's official shuttlecock, **Talbot-Torro, Winex, Fila** - the event's official shirt,. **Toalson, Yonex, Dunlop, Carlton**, and **Taraflex**. This is brought to you also by **Crossover 105.1, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Jam 88.3 and The Philippine Star.** Freebies, goodies, fun and surprises await the participants. For registration, please call Primeworks Intermedia Inc at 372-1238 and look for Ms. Armie.

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ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

How do you measure monetary success in your business?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'm newly promoted to management and suddenly I'm drowning in financial reports and numbers. How do I make sense of all this stuff? And what particular numbers should I focus my efforts on?

Number Challenged

You've heard of the expression "eating your investment?" Before the last stock market hiccup, restaurants in New York and Boston gave that expression a whole new meaning. Several featured meals with genuine gold flakes on top. No, not as a garnish: this gold was meant to be eaten! One example: risotto of summer's gold squashes with leaf of 24-carat gold.

You're right: managers are presented with overwhelming reams of financial data. Fortunately, there are only a few critical measures you need to understand to avoid eating your own investments. I've listed several below. For more, check out Charles Handy's book, "21 Ideas For Managers" (Jossey-Bass, 2000).

Is that an investment or a cost you're thinking about cutting? Investments are things that maintain or gain value over time (like property). Then, there are costs-expenses that your business incurs that don't hold value (like paper clips and electricity). Know which you're dealing with before you make a cut. One example: most businesses treat employees as a cost that can be cut whenever necessary. But once you've trained employees, they grow in value. Treat them as investments and cut them only with great care.

Are you losing money on every sale, but making it up in volume? Of course not! Who would be so idiotic? You'd be surprised. Know your break-even point and don't sell below it. (Unless you have a powerful, strategic, short-term reason, such as lowering prices to get a major new customer. If so, raise them back over break-even as soon as possible.)

Is that a smart investment, or a rescue operation? You know the phrase "throwing good money after bad?" In business those "bad" expenses are called sunk costs, and the best thing to do is forget about them. No matter how much money you've sunk into something that really ought to work, don't spend more unless that's genuinely the best place for those dollars today.

Sure it's profitable, but will it pay the bills? Yes, you want to focus on profits: you need to bring in money over costs. But there's also that little matter of cash flow. The most lucrative contract isn't "profitable" if you don't have cash on hand to pay the bills.

Are you looking at past success or future? Your balance sheets show you what has worked well up 'til now. But they don't tell you what will work well in the future. Before you commit to new expenses—whether continuing past expenses because they've been successful, or making new purchases because they've worked for someone else—consider a range of options. Look forward, not back.

Hopefully, you'll never find yourself eating your investments. But if you do, may I suggest the risotto with golden squashes and leaf of 24-carat gold?

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: How important to you is your employer's bottom line?

—It ain't my problem, 10.7 percent

—It's something I'm aware of, 41.3 percent

—It's something I worry about, 47.9 percent

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

Ateneo CORD offers strategic training and development program

ATENEO CORD (Center for Organization Research and Development) is offering two programs, this September.

The strategic training and development program scheduled on Sept. 6 to 17, is a 10-day intensive program aimed at developing the competencies of HR professionals and managers in designing, facilitating, administering, and evaluating training in their organization.

A new program, "HR Metrics," is scheduled on Sept. 20 to 22. It is a three-day course designed to provide HR practitioners and line managers with theories and techniques on evaluating HR programs and how to measure the impact of HR on business outcomes.

For more information, contact: Ateneo CORD, 2/F Höffner Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108 at (632) 426-5931, 426-6282, fax (632) 426-6065, e-mail ateneocord@admu.edu.ph or visit www.ateneocord.org.

'Am I hired or not?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

PLEASE help me find immediate relief from my employment dilemma. Weeks ago, I applied for a teaching position in a university. The dean, after evaluating my application, told me matter-of-factly that they were looking for a lecturer with an master's degree (I'm a fresh graduate who worked as a volunteer staff or educator for a non-profit organization). He then asked me to come back the next day and let me have my first taste of a dream job—teaching in tertiary level. His staff observed how I taught and it seemed that I got the job. I was given a three-unit load and I have been teaching for more than a couple of weeks now. However, I have not signed any employment contract yet. I told the dean it was not the compensation that I was primarily after but the job itself. But I made it clear that I was not applying for a volunteer job.

Then, a company I had sent a resume to weeks ago called me for an interview. I think I have a good chance of landing a job in that company and I'm considering my options because it seems to offer employment security and better compensation. But I love the teaching job and I would not like to let go of it if only I had assurance and proof that I indeed will be paid for it.

Should I ask the dean as to when I will sign an employment contract? Am I not going to look foolish and insult him if I do so? I'd be very thankful for whatever piece of advice you could give me. Thank you very much and more power.

Confused "Professor"

I empathize with you. Sometimes, we think our problems are bigger than they actually are. The solution is really simple. If you are keen on the teaching job, approach the dean and ask if he can clarify your teaching status. You will not insult him because it is your right to know. The fact that you have started teaching means you are now at work. I don't know what the standard practice is in your school. Ask the other professors. Does the school issue an employment contract or simply a letter indicating what courses to teach during the semester?

If you are in fact formally accepted, I suggest you tighten your belt. If you are teaching a single subject, do you have enough savings to tide you over until the next semester? If the answer is yes, then you don't have a problem. You might want, since you have much time in your hands, to enroll and start to earn units towards a master's degree. This will improve your credentials and give you greater leverage in the future.

If compensation is in fact an issue, I suggest you go for the job interview and give it your best. If you are hired, then you can start to enjoy the financial security you desire. Now what to do with your dream to teach in the collegiate level? You can talk to the dean if he could give you a teaching load in the evening. You can teach part time while enjoying a full-time job.

By the way, recently, I was asked to give advice on the air Mondays and Wednesdays in a segment entitled "Hanapbuhay" in the radio program "Oro Mismo" aired over 558 RMN Manila between 6:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. I invite all our readers to tune in. Good luck and God speed in your endeavor.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

Gain productivity, work-life ...

From page B10

claims a telecommuter. Instead of counting the work hours, your boss can count the results.

The hours you spend crammed between bodies in a Tamaraw FX commuting to work can be converted to productive hours in the boardroom or quality time preparing breakfast for your kids. It's the answer to working moms clamor for a work-life balance. Plus, without the hassle of commuting, you are left energized and more motivated. It's a morale boosting solution that will ultimately benefit your company.

Also, if you can create a private workspace away from the office, you may prove to be more productive without the interruptions of unnecessary phone calls and the distraction of a packed noisy environment.

Candidate

Telecommuting is usually granted to employees with certain disabilities or illnesses. Special projects also call for telecommuting. Other times, companies allow telecommuting due to unavailability or lack of office space. Certain conditions like typhoons and transportation strikes also call for telecommuting. If you live hours away from the office and spend a great deal of time commuting, you may also request to work at home.

If you think you are a candidate for the telecommuting program, you may be able to suggest the concept to your company. First, you have to convince your employer that telecommuting would be best for both parties. Secondly, you have to guarantee that coworkers remaining in the office will not be saddled with work left behind because aside from the venue, nothing really changes. You will still be working along with the rest of your team.

You must do your homework if you're thinking of proposing telecommuting to your company. Research and make a comprehensive proposal outlining the mechanics and advantages of the program. Specify your schedule, your company's responsibilities, your proposed workspace at home, the equipment that you would need and of course, your responsibilities.

What are the tools?

With technology working for us, telecommuting is no longer a far-fetched idea. You can work at home and constantly communicate with your office, your staff and with your clients through e-mail, instant messaging, phone, fax and countless more devices. Most companies provide their telecommuters with laptops, high-speed Internet connection and mobile phones packed with dizzying features to keep them connected and available from nine to five. Oftentimes, a dedicated telephone is all one needs.

Through various teleconferencing systems, employees from different points in and out the country can be brought together in one room. More and more companies are investing on audio conferencing systems and video phones.

Be more productive

Working without direct supervision may have its disadvantages. Unsupervised, you may slack off, succumb to distractions and use your time unwisely. If your workspace is at home, what would stop you from taking a leisurely *siesta* when your bed is a few paces away from your desk? It is best to set up a space dedicated for work alone. It must be as far away from the television as possible and not inside your bedroom and neither should it be your kitchen counter.

Also establishing a goal and setting deadlines will help keep you on track. Chart a timetable and stick to it. Maintain regular communication with your supervisor and your team and make sure you are always accessible during work hours.

On the other hand, having your office at home may encourage you to work longer hours and cause stress and work fatigue. This is one reason why it's important to establish a work routine. Carry on as you would if you were to report at the office. Start your day early as usual, have breakfast, spend a few moments with your family or for yourself and yes, dress up. Some claim that dressing up for work, although nobody actually sees you, makes a difference. Dressing up helps set your mood to work mode and will make you feel more professional. Besides, it's not a good idea to participate in a videoconference when you are in your pajamas and fluffy slippers. At the end of the workday, pack up and forget about work. You can actually start on your casserole while the rest of the nine-to-fivers are sweating out the heavy Metro Manila traffic.

Savor the present moment with family, colleagues'

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

WE WERE not sure he would even get up on stage. Although he had marched into school dressed in the prescribed Tagalog costume, a tiny *camisa chino*, a *tubao* kerchief 'round his neck, a straw hat on his head, and baggy pants, he had quickly retreated into a corner backstage and held court there. He asked for his morning bottle of milk and a bag of cookies, and then he nestled in and watched as the other kids paraded in wearing their Linggo ng Wika best. At two and a half years old, this was going to be Diego's first school program, and although, I had heard him hum the songs to himself as he played at home, I didn't know if he would be comfortable on stage.

As a matter of fact, none of the other mothers sitting with me in the front row were sure if their kids would get up on stage. Immediately there were signs of things to come. One of the *yayas* came wearing a *malong* over her white uniform because she was prepared to get on stage with her ward in case he refused to go without her. Another boy made it known to his mom, and to all who cared to hear, that he was not interested in the proceedings, he dug in his heels, folded his arms across his chest, and looked away. And the boy who was to sing the national anthem at the start of the program chose to do so while hiding inside the *bahay kubo* on stage.

Enjoy the show

From the parents' row, there was uneasy laughter, some coaxing, sighs of exasperation, and frayed nerves. We were headed for the collision course many a school program set us up for: adult high expectations versus the spontaneous nature of the child.

Diego did get on stage, but he brought his bag of cookies with him. He sat right smack at the center, dipped his hand into the bag, and munched away. Never mind that his other classmates were singing and moving around him, the better show for him was happening at front row, parents and teachers were jumping and over-extending themselves to encourage the kids on stage. As far as he was concerned, he had already given his best performance at rehearsals the day before. There was no need to do it all over again. But there before him was a show he had yet to see, a circus of parents. He was determined to enjoy that.

I've said it before, and I will say it again. Little kids are Zen teachers. They teach us about being present in the moment because that's what they do the best.

In that moment, Diego gave himself completely to what was unfolding before him. Lao-Tzu says, "If you're present, you are alert, fluid, clear and able to welcome new things." That's what Diego was teaching me, how to welcome new things.

Need for change

On that stage we call our office, we can get so trapped in expectations, in procedures, and in timetables, that we are not able to delight in new things. We can get so caught up in how we had forecast things, how we had rehearsed things, so that when it's show time, we lose contact with our own audience, our clients.

We are not able to keep ourselves open to fresh ideas, to alternative ways of doing things. Often we throw out or fight against that move that doesn't quite fit our plans. Yet, even the best plans, need to change. Even the best theater show, must be able to improvise. In fact, the best plans must make room for change. When we become inflexible in our work, we become mired in arrogance, and quickly become irrelevant. If we want to be the best professional and the best parent we can be, than we must welcome new things. We must, once in a while, sit as Diego did and watch the show unfold before us.

Best teacher

The lesson of presence and flexibility quickly descended into our pre-school program. By the time the last number came, three of the front row moms had put down their cameras, jumped on stage with their kids, and performed the number with them. They knew that capturing this moment for posterity was not as important as being with their kids at that very moment. It was a testament to the kind of atmosphere that the school fosters. It's an atmosphere of acceptance, of recognizing that the child takes the lead in learning, and that presence is the best teacher. There was no rebuke from the stage moms, they hugged their kids, sang along, and delighted in the moment. The kids beamed, sang, and danced. By then, there was no question about it: the kids had not only gotten up on stage, they had also shown us what stage presence was all about.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine, published by ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc. If you'd like more tips on work-life balance, get this month's issue with Pops Fernandez on the cover. Comments are welcome at an_alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com.)

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Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Gain productivity, work-life balance via telecommuting

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

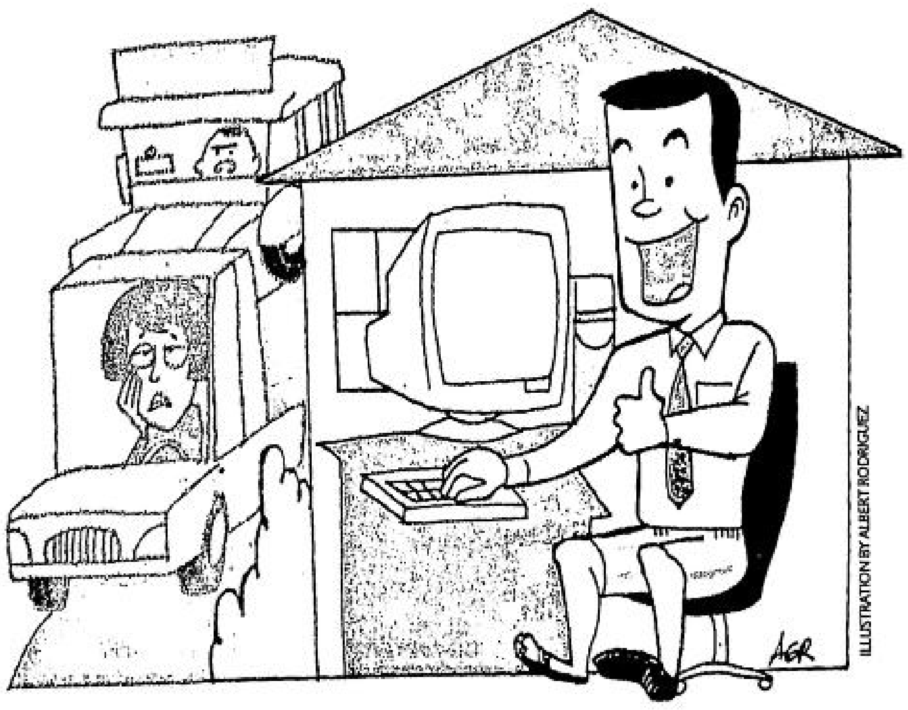


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

IT'S A BUSY day for Amelia. She gets up a little past seven, takes a nice long shower and a leisurely breakfast, not minding the traffic that must be building up as she reads the headlines. Then, she heads off to work. Not to the garage where her car is, but to her den where her laptop is warming up beside a steaming hot cup of cocoa. Not coffee because she's had enough sleep so she will be alert and awake the entire day. It's been like this since her company allowed her to work at home. Not just today, but several times a week for the rest of her working life.

This sounds like a dream scenario to the harassed working masses, especially those who've been struggling to balance work and life together. Unknown to many, the work at home program, telecommuting or "teleworking" may already be an option. Telecommuting allows employees to work at home or in any other location away from the office. It's a growing trend abroad and more and more local companies are following suit because it is a program that not only benefits the employees but ultimately, the business as well.

How does this work?

Depending on the agreement between you and your employer,. telecommuting may mean working away from the office several days a week, a few days in a month or on as-needed basis. Although you are technically away from the office premises, you still need to comply with certain office rules and regulations, which means, you still are on duty and are expected to be productive. That is, when you're at home, your boss expects you to be typing away proposals on your laptop and not wasting the morning away catching up on the latest gossip with friends or watching cartoons with your kids. Telecommuting allows work-life balance but during office hours, you're not expected to spend time with your family. While your employer cannot monitor your every move, the bottom line is results.

For those not familiar with this concept, trial and error is inevitable before the perfect schedule and program can be applied. Work schedule can be flexible and may be adjusted anytime to fit the needs of both employer and employee. You, your immediate supervisor and the HR department must work closely together to iron out the mechanics of the program.

With telecommuting, you may be monitored and evaluated through your reports, team reviews, timetables and most importantly, through your results.

Your company can test the program on a trial basis and may choose to keep or abolish the program depending on the evaluation.

What are the benefits?

Some may argue an employee's performance can get affected without a supervisor hovering to monitor progress. This could be looked at in a positive light. Without the unnecessary pressure from superiors, you might actually get the work done quicker and with better results.

If the company is result-oriented, telecommuting is a perfect alternative. "It demonstrates trust and performance-based results,"

TELECOMMUTING/ B9

SANTAMARIA

CECILIA

ALCANTARA

The best of People at Work Live! seminar series returns

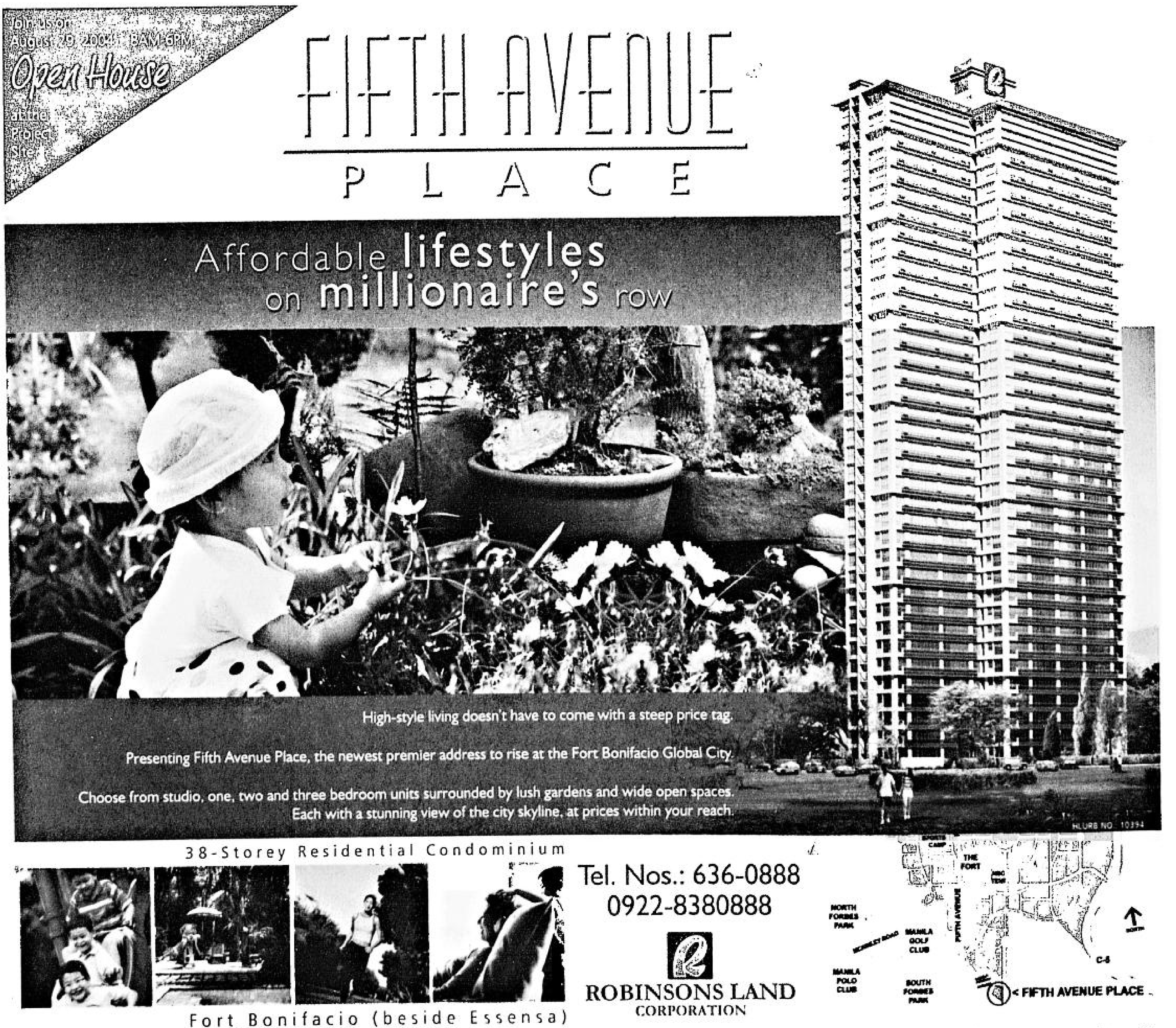
THE BEST are back and it is free at "Fun Meetings at The Shangri-la Makati!" Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Shangri-la Makati and Optimus Innovations bring back "The Best of People at Work Live! Seminar Series" on Sept. 8 (Wednesday) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"People at Work Live" is the long running seminar series of Philippine Daily Inquirer with a successful track record of 10 events conducted over three years, which has reached over 13,000 participants in over 1,500 companies.

Three of the most highly rated learning sessions of the popular seminar series, "People at Work Live!" will be conducted at the Rizal Ballroom at The Shangri-la Makati. The sessions are: "Effective Conflict Resolution Techniques" by Josefina O. Santamaria, President, Career Systems Inc. (10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.); "Negotiate Your Way to Success: Effective Negotiation Techniques" by Ernie O. Cecilia, President, EC Business Solutions and Career Center (1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.) and "Getting Ahead at Work Without Leaving Your Family Behind" by An Mercado Alcantara, Deputy Editorial Director, ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. (2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Santamaria and Cecilia write alternately for "Ask Your Career Counselor," a column featured in Sunday People at Work. Alcantara writes for "Working Mom," a column in the Wednesday edition of People at Work. All speakers are seasoned resource persons and trainors.

The learning sessions are sponsored by ABS-CBN Publishing Inc.'s Working Mom, Career Systems Inc., and EC Business Solutions and Career Center. Register early to reserve seats. To register, call 935-6678 or 938-2092.



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Change the world, Part 2

This week, we have more stories that inspire.
Enjoy the journey into the lives of extraordinary individuals—a girl who was able to reach out to hundreds of people through an innovative way of achieving her dream and a man who spread positivity during his stay in prison.
We also have other examples by which you can make a difference: give a crash course on basketball at a children's shelter, adopt homeless dogs or devote your life to imparting knowledge.
This is only the beginning.
We are looking for more inspiring stories. Have you done something to change your part of the globe? Do you know of any groups or individuals who are making a difference? If you wish to contribute to the Change the World column, e-mail us at Ls_2bU@inquirer.com.ph.

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ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Rediscovering idealism

Idealism is not a stage in our lives; it is a way of being and of knowing that what we do in life echoes in eternity

By Catherine Young
Contributor

IDEALISM is what comes before experience; cynicism is what happens afterwards.

There comes a time in every young person's life when he realizes that his vices are shallow. He soon desires for something much more substantial and lasting. He then focuses on a vision much greater than himself.

Our generation's standards are based on achievement, which is not about acquiring wealth, but about making a relevant contribution to mankind. We want to become the next big thing.

This may lead to two kinds of perversions. The first is the downward spiral that adults like to call cynicism. Years of toil and the absence of results deaden the spirit, and people fall into desperation. The second is the disease of imitation, of becoming second-handers and parrots so that one's identity is completely erased.

A teacher asked the difference between fate and destiny. Fate is something beyond our control, I said. But destiny is something we choose. And each of us wants our destiny to be great, or else be forgotten, perhaps the worst fate of all.

All things considered, the best thing to do is simply try. To go forth and attempt to solve even a smidgen of the world's problems, to work doggedly despite the lack of clarity, to push on in spite of frustration and discouragement—these are what we are challenged to do.

Building someone a home, taking care of an unfortunate child, coming to the rescue of an animal—we have to remember that these efforts are not wasted even if they are not always celebrated.

A life, after all, is not measured by a single failure or a solitary success. Idealism is not a stage in our lives, nor is it a passing fancy brought about by raging hormones. Rather, it is a way of being.

We need idealists now more than ever, not just to change the world, but to move it.

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

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Finding purpose in jail

Although he found his seven-year detention difficult, Raymund Narag has no bitterness about an experience that gave him a mission in life

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

IN 1995, 21-year-old Raymund Narag had a promising future ahead of him. He was about to graduate cum laude from the University of the Philippines and was a leader in various college activities and organizations. He was set on becoming a lawyer and had plans to enter the UP College of Law. He had a family who was proud of him, friends who cherished him and a girlfriend whom he loved very much.

Everyone thought he was bound for success. However things changed when, just three days before college graduation, he was served a warrant of arrest for crimes he did not do. He allegedly took part in a rumble caused by his fraternity, Scintilla Juris, which resulted in the death of UP student Dennis Venturina, as well as the frustrated and attempted murder of others.

It was one of Raymund's bleakest moments. "Instead of a diploma, I showed my parents the papers taking me away from their custody and placing me under detention. Instead of marching to the stage hearing the applause of friends and relatives, I dragged my feet to jail. My parents figuratively died," he says.

Long immersion

After receiving the warrant, Raymund and his co-accused—11 others who were members of his fraternity—voluntarily surrendered themselves to police authorities. They were placed in the Quezon City Jail while their case was pending.

Raymund was taken aback at the conditions of life in jail. "It took me time to adjust. I had to sleep in a cell that could ideally accommodate 10 inmates but actually contained 50. We had to look for our own food, clothing and beddings because the jail management couldn't sufficiently provide for it," he recalls.

During this time, Raymund convinced himself that he was simply undergoing a long immersion process. "I thought then that our detention was just a part of a long and under-budgeted immersion program, the way I used to immerse in squatters' communities. It was but an education process so that I would be exposed to the ills of society."

Reality check

However, Raymund had a cold dose of reality when the decision for bail petition came out, nine months after he and his co-accused were put to detention. His heart sank when he learned the results.

"Nine of my brods were granted bail but two of us were denied," he says. He was denied bail because a witness identified him as one of those who "whacked the victim [who was] lying on the ground."

Raymund repeated his pleas of innocence, to no avail. When his motion for reconsideration was denied, Raymund decided to face his situation squarely and realized he would probably be staying in jail for a long time.

"I realized that the mess I was in was no longer an immersion. It was destroying my life, and I could not simply rot [in jail]. I then told myself that I had to be productive, and that the idiocy of my situation would not turn me into a lowlife," he says.

The first thing Raymund did to improve his situation was to apply for an outstanding pass from the court to be able to enroll in the UP Open University program. The court later allowed Raymund to go to school once a month, taking up a course in New Enterprise Planning.

In turn, Raymund organized and taught in a functional literacy class in jail, teaching his fellow inmates what he had just learned from his course in the Open University program, as well as basic subjects such as English and Math.

His teaching stint began Raymund's transformed outlook on jail life, as he started to regard his fellow inmates "not as individuals to be condemned but as souls waiting to be touched with reformation."

RAYMUND (second from right) with some fellow inmates during one of the activities he organized

Becoming 'mini-city mayor'

It didn't take long for Raymund to find a "career" in jail. Or rather, his "career" found him.

"Eventually, my fellow inmates recognized my leadership potential and elected me as secretary of the inmate organization," he shares. As secretary, Raymund was able to come up with projects to better the lives of the inmates.

"We organized the 'No Bail Band,' which produced "Hiram na Buhay," an anti-death penalty song that became a hit during the Leo Echagaray execution. We also came up with a cultural committee that held weekly singing, dancing and drama contests," he says.

Raymund also tied up with the Ugnayan ng Pahinungod, a volunteer arm of the University of the Philippines, to conduct seminars on the rights of the accused, the different stages of criminal procedure and different modes of release, etc. They also trained

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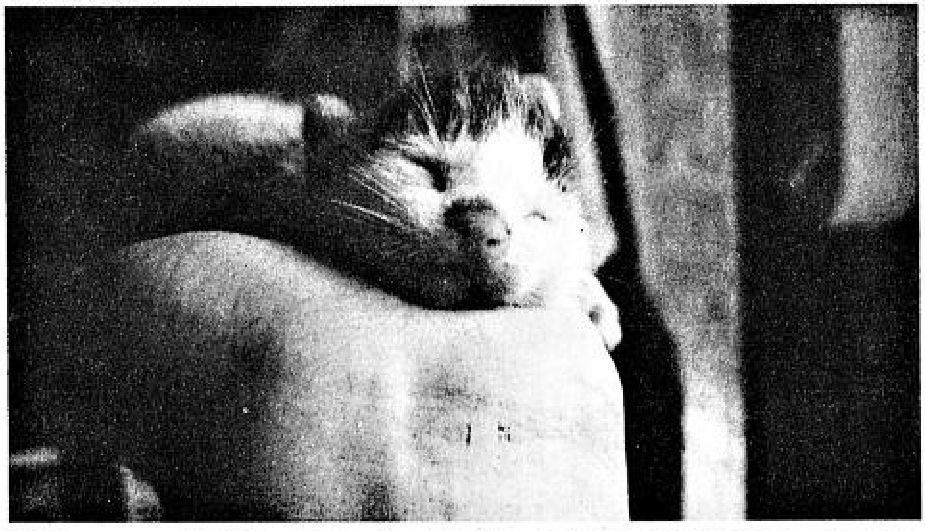
Bringing lov

The Philippine Animal Rehabilitation Center rescues stray dogs and cats, nurses them back to health, and sends them to loving new homes



WHO says you can't hold love in the palm of your hand? One of the four kittens in a week-old litter. Their mother, named "MG," was given to PARC by a security guard working at a mall drugstore.

Text and photos
by Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

CONSTRUCTED in 2002, the Philippine Animal Rehabilitation Center (PARC), run by the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), has helped find abandoned and neglected dogs and cats new homes, as well as new jobs (some of them have joined the Dr. Dog Program. See related story).

A fully non-profit organization, PAWS put up PARC with the help of the International Fund of Animal Welfare and Meralco, whose land PARC is using right now. From one humble kennel and cattery, the place has grown to accommodate a butterfly farm and a runway for dogs to exercise in.

Many of the dogs and cats sent to PARC were rescued, most of them sick or almost dying when found. With the help of PAWS volunteers, they've been nursed back to health, spayed or neutered, and r
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Phoebe
Phoebe was found by the Marikina Riverbanks at such a young age, she wasn't even whelped yet. A shy but lovable dog, Phoebe is a bundle of energy once she is comfortable with her handler.

Sprinter
Two-month-old Sprinter is a dead ringer for a Chihuahua. Rescued near Commonwealth Avenue as a puppy, Sprinter would make a perfect indoor dog, preferably with kids who match his energy level. A friendly, hyper, affectionate puppy that would definitely bring smiles to anyone's home.

Ariba
Watching Ariba run is like watching a kangaroo. He is an overly energetic dog that requires, if possible, a big yard, and plenty of exercise. Affectionate and loving, Ariba wouldn't pass up on a free belly rub. Ariba's mom was rescued near Quezon City.

Louie
One of the friendliest dogs at PARC, Louie was once adopted but brought back to PARC for one of the dumbest reasons—because he barks. Obviously a good watchdog, Louie also makes a great jogging mate. His mother was rescued at a mall, and is now part of the Dr. Dog Program.

Sandy
Sandy was rummaging through a dumpster when a PAWS volunteer rescued her. At 1 year old, Sandy's quite shy, but affectionate nonetheless.

Collette
Collette was abandoned by a pharmaceutical company staffer, and when volunteers rescued her, she was so skinny, no one thought she was actually pregnant. Out of the eight pups in her litter, only one survived. Collette is a frisky yet gentle dog, and is a bit wary of strangers.

Charity begins in this orphanage

The Concordia hospice is the chief beneficiary of C3, a group formed by high-school friends that organizes shows for charity

By Samantha Ang
2bU! Correspondent

FIVE years ago, a bus of freshmen high-school students rolled down a narrow road and stopped in front of a modest abode with a sign that read, "Concordia Children's Services."

It was our class' first and only exposure trip in high school.

After being given a brief tour and introduction of the place, my classmates lost no time in playing and cuddling with the adorable little children. But it ended all too soon. By afternoon, we reluctantly left, with a bittersweet yet happy feeling in our hearts.

Of the lives that were touched by that brief visit, one person took it a step further. Melissa Yeung discreetly went back to visit the place in the next weekends. The trip made her realize how truly blessed she was, and how she wanted to share her time with the less fortunate.

Aside from providing temporary shelter for baby orphans, Concordia also has a Street Crisis Intervention Program which aims to help street children living along the railroad tracks of Sta. Mesa.

Yeung's first step, upon seeing these kids' artistic talent, was to hold an arts and crafts workshop for the children together with her friends and her art teacher.

Then she and friends decided to form C3, which stands for Concerts and Productions for Charity Causes.

As its name suggests, C3 organizes concerts, projects and events for charity. The group is composed not only of high school friends, but also volunteers from other schools.

So far, C3 has had six successful concerts. The proceeds have been used to save the life of a cancer-stricken child, support medical missions and other charities, and sponsor some street children to school.

CACES with four of the girls waving goodbye

MELISSA Yeung (center) celebrated her 18th birthday with the kids at Concordia.

Going back

I recently went back to Concordia after a long time to look around and see how much has changed since C3 became a benefactor.

Elizabeth Caces, the person in-charge, was very accommodating and spent time sharing information about Concordia and even some facts about adoption. I learned, for instance, that a couple who wants to adopt a child cannot simply walk in and pick whomever they choose. They have to give certain criteria, and it's the orphanage that matches a child to them. Many Concordia orphans have been adopted by foreigners through a government-to-government system.

While we were talking, a little girl named Justine came by and proudly placed a small red album in my hands. I was delighted to find out that it contained pictures of her future family. Caces explained that Justine was going to Australia soon to meet them. The little girl seemed excited about it, and I was glad she finally found a family that would give her the love she deserved.

Caces then introduced me to two special children. One had Larsen's disease, so her joints couldn't support her body. The other was an extremely malnourished 1-year-old child. While they seemed to be coping well, it was clear they still needed special medical attention.

These and many more needs at the orphanage are what C3 hopes to alleviate with its projects. And the group has been quite active. Most of the books in Concordia's

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ONE of QC Jail's overcrowded cells, where Raymund was detained

as mini-city mayor, no major jail disturbance such as riots or escapes occurred.

The changes Raymund implemented at the QC Jail caught the attention of the media. It cited such programs as the graduation of those who took part in the literacy program, the Miss Quezon City Jail (which was a fundraiser), and various other cultural activities.

Free at last

After spending almost seven years in jail, the courts acquitted Raymund and released him from detention in 2002. At present, Raymund, 30, is married and will soon be a father. He is wrapping up his master's degree at the National College of Public Administration and has just finished writing a book about the penal conditions of the Quezon City jail, which he hopes will reach policymakers.

Aside from advocating for penal and criminal justice, he is also campaigning for non-violence in campus among the fraternities.

"I do not want any frat man, or any student for that matter, to suffer the same fate I have suffered. I am doing this on behalf of all the parents who fear that their sons might have a future destroyed. I hope that the fraternity system will find its relevance in the educational system," he says.

Although he found his stay in jail difficult, Raymund has no bitterness or regrets.

"I am thankful I had this experience, which made me more humble," he says. "I believe everyone has a mission in life. Mine was revealed through a long and torturous road. But when one responds to this mission, everything will have a meaning. And then one will truly see the beauty of life."

Raymund Narag may be reached at raymund.narag@up.edu.ph

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owner can tell you how unconditional an animal's love is for its owner when treated well.

Here are just a handful of the many wagging tails waiting to be a part of your family at PARC.

If you want to check out more dogs and cats up for adoption, visit the Philippine Animal Rehabilitation Center at Aurora Blvd, Katipunan Valley, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, or call 4751688. To find out more about PAWS, or to volunteer or donate money, log on to http://pitstopit.com/paws3 or e-mail paws_hq@compass.com.ph.

What is Dr. Dog?

CONCEIVED by animal crusader Jill Robinson of the Animals Asia Foundation in 1991, Dr. Dog is a team of therapy dogs that visit hospitals, orphanages and schools to stimulate and educate children about the proper care of animals.

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If you think your dog's purpose in life is to spread love to those other than your family, contact Anna Cabrera at 09178315970, or PAWS, at paws_hq@compass.com.ph.

—Maui V. Reyes

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C3's Book Drive.
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their colorful artwork.

Thanks to selfless people like Caces, Yeung and all the people behind both Concordia and C3, these children are loved once more.

E-mail C3 at c34kids01@yahoo.com. Concordia Children's Services is located at 4443 Old Sta. Mesa St., Sta. Mesa, Manila. Call 7160031 and 7133462.

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PIA'S friend Charlene asked her to make a bracelet for her sister's birthday. Easy for Pia, who likes making jewelry out of glass and copper wire.

Pia believed in her dream, did something about it and inspired so many people in the process. And she's only 20 years old

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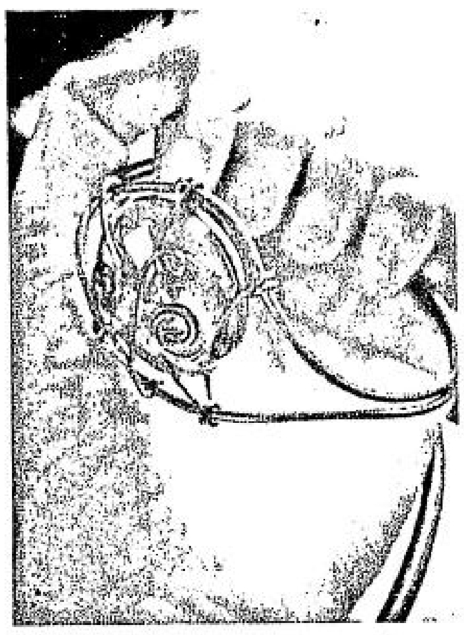
Buy this dream

By Maria Carmina Borromeo Ramos
2bU! Correspondent



WEAR this good deed around your wrist. Pia's final product

WHEN Pia Faustino first heard about the 3rd World Youth Festival (with themes centering on cultural diversity, globalization, sustainable development and conditions for peace), she felt like she had to be a part of it.

She recently boarded a plane and went to Barcelona, Spain, and fulfilled her dream. So how did she do it?

Pia approached corporations, institutions, government offices, important people—anyone whom she thought would be able to help her. She needed $1,000 (around P60,000) to cover her airfare and registration fee—and soon.

She had to pay for everything before July 30. With less than a month left to raise funds, Pia thought of an idea that has since blossomed into a whole new movement.

Online journal

Using her online journal as a springboard, she put her plan into action. "Will you buy this dream?" She asked her friends, acquaintances and random people passing through her website.

Pia described the World Youth Festival and expressed as best as she could the reasons why she wanted to go. She also outlined everything that she had already done to make her dream of going to Barcelona come true.

And then came the proposition that would jumpstart the movement. She wrote in her online journal: "If you donate P300 to help me get to Barcelona, then I will, in exchange, perform any good deed of your choice. Any good deed that you believe to be worth P300!"

By her calculations, Pia needed 200 people to donate P300 each to come up with P60,000. It seemed like a near impossibility, but this was her last shot.

To her surprise, friends and strangers alike supported her. In less than a week, she received more than a hundred pledges. Overwhelmed by the support, Pia decided to take the plunge. She shouldered the remaining amount needed, using her lifetime savings.

She kept track of the good deeds that she had done through another website which she

BUY/D2

CRIBS Philippines

A NUMBER of pledgers asked Pia to visit an orphanage. She went to Cribs with her friend Jonaks and spent the afternoon with the kids.

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THE AUTHOR'S new basketball buddies

BASKETBALL 101

PANGARAP FOUNDATION

PANGARAP Shelter, run by the Religious Brothers, provides shelter, medical and legal services, physical and psychological help, and formal and informal education to children under its care.

Shoot that ball and change the world

By Dexter R. Matilla
2bU! Correspondent

Teaching kids in a children's shelter the ropes of basketball can be a life-affirming experience

I KNEW my friends and I were in for a very tough time after I found out that we would be teaching basketball to more than 80 kids from the Pangarap Shelter in Pasay. I hadn't done any real volunteer work before so when I learned that 2bU! would be coming out with this issue, I couldn't pass the opportunity up.

But before I go on, allow me to thank my high school friends—Mark Anthony Frial, Marlon Gomez, and John Marquez—and my loyal buddy, Brix Gil Bayuga, for gladly helping me out in this assignment.

Days before we visited the Pangarap Shelter with nothing to show but our "skills" (yeah right!), I had really been more nervous than excited. One question kept bugging me: How would learning basketball change their world?

I hadn't heard of the Pangarap Shelter before so I did a little research first. Located at the corner of Taft Avenue and Escobal Street, the shelter is run by the Religious Brothers, providing children under its care shelter, medical and legal services, physical and psychological help, and formal and informal education.

Children are referred to the shelter by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, street educators and like organizations. Walk-in clients and runaways are also accepted. Those who have finished their vocation at the shelter are then released. Some, on the other hand, are provided "after-care," in which they are assigned social workers who can help them in their various needs.

When we arrived at the place, we didn't know what to expect. All our apprehensions were put aside, however, as the kid who welcomed us was very gracious, polite and respectful. That basically set my mind at ease, as it would be easier to teach kids just like him.

After introducing ourselves, we asked the children to form rows. We started off by asking them to do some stretchings. Soon after, we went into teaching them the basics.

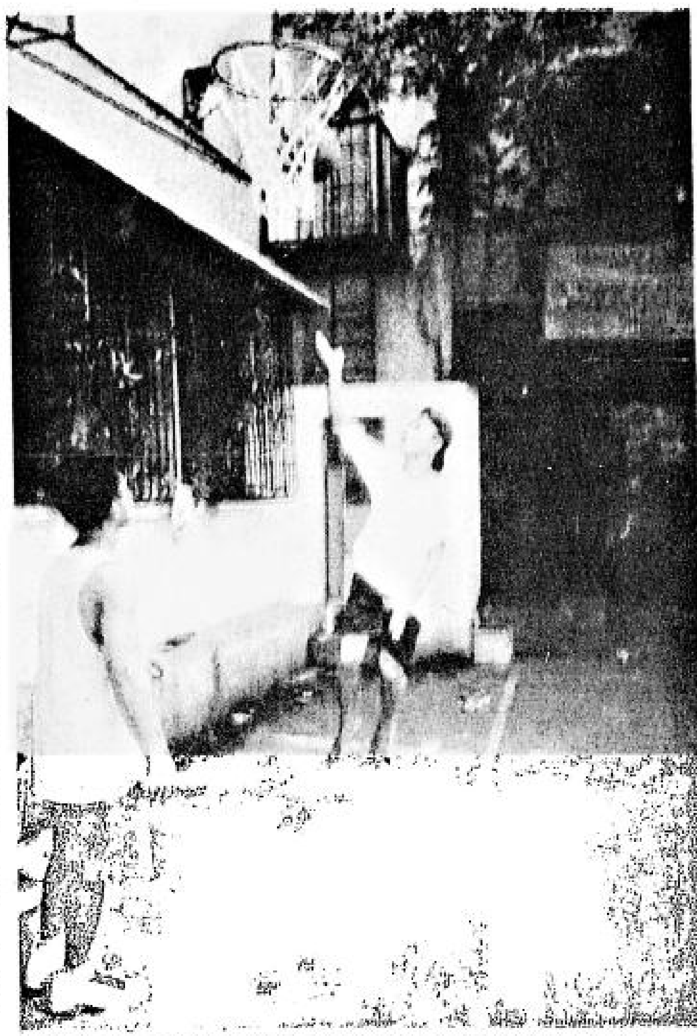
It was really nice seeing them follow us. There were some who just couldn't seem to stay in place, but we expected that since most of them were barely in their teens.

Thirty minutes after, we divided the kids into groups of five for a half-court game of basketball. It was really very surprising to see that the kids were very unselfish with the ball. They were passing the ball, trying to find who was open to take the shot. Rarely do we see that in either collegiate or professional basketball!

And even though we didn't have a price to give the would-be winners, they still played competitively.

All in all, the experience was quite rewarding. We may not have been able to change their world, but they surely changed ours.

E-mail dxmatilla@yahoo.com



THEY can teach Kobe Bryant a thing or two. The kids were very unselfish with the ball.

A PLEDGER from Cebu asked Pia to share good food with a hungry child. Pia and her friend Patrick took these two kids out to lunch.

Buy this dream

From page D1

created. Some deeds were straightforward and easy to record: deliver a singing telegram, visit an orphanage, attend a film screening.

But some people who pledged their P300 to Pia simply asked that she document her trip, or enjoy herself—or that they get to believe in her dream. Pia's drive to reach her dream and her complete honesty and transparency when it came to her finances inspired so many people.

More than a dream

There were some people who expressed their concerns about Pia's dream. A few people thought it was selfish of Pia to expect people to "waste" their money on her just so she could go to Barcelona. Some even commented that Pia, having graduated from a private university, would surely be rich enough to afford the P60,000 on her own.

Her response?

"I view my participation in this event as an investment—in learning, in experience and cultivating contacts, all of which will ultimately make it possible for me to undertake more concrete endeavors in the future," she said.

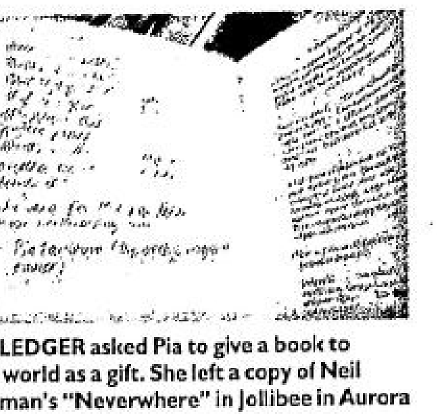
Pia accepted the criticisms gracefully and explained herself articulately in her "Buy This Dream" website. For her, going to the 3rd World Youth Festival was something she had to do, and something that she knew in her gut would be something she and so many other people would be able to benefit from.

Now, she says that while all this started as her personal dream, it has come to mean more than that.

"This whole adventure—beginning with sharing my dream, people believing in me and raising funds by performing acts of kindness—has been such a rich experience in itself. Already I have learned so much about trust, connection, inspiring people to action and pursuing visions despite the odds. I said it in an earlier post and I'll say it again: the journey has become the destination."

Pia hopes to come home from the 3rd World Youth Festival not only having learned many new things, but also having shared the story of how she got there in the first place. It's an inspiring and uniquely Filipino story, and one that deserves attention and praise.

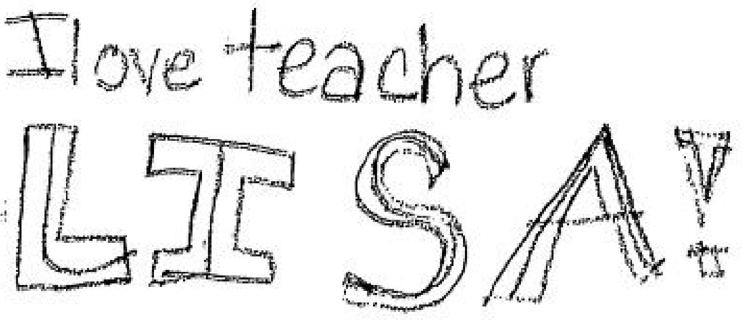
Visit www.livejournal.com/users/buythisdream



A PLEDGER asked Pia to give a book to the world as a gift. She left a copy of Neil Gaiman's "Neverwhere" in Jollibee in Aurora Boulevard in hopes that another book lover would find it.

Making a difference with chalk and patience

By Lisa S. Marfori Sobreviñas
2bU!.Correspondent



YOU don't have to go very far to change the world. You don't always have to do something very drastic to make your mark. And you don't always need material things like wealth or goods to offer help to people.

Sometimes, changing the world entails doing something as ordinary as going back to the place you came from and giving back to it. In my case, it's going back my alma mater, my second home of 13 years, not as a student but as a teacher this time around.

Many people may see this as hardly "changing the world" material. So you teach, make lesson plans and wake up earlier than your other friends who work 9-to-5 jobs. There's nothing extraordinary about that.

If at all, my life as a third-grade teacher sometimes makes me feel I'm still a student. I still wake up at 5 a.m., leave the house with my youngest sister who is in third year high school in the same school and I get picked up at 4 p.m.

The only difference is I no longer get allowance from my folks when mom sends us off at 6 a.m. Because I refuse to accept the money she hands me.

Back to my roots

But there is something about teaching that makes you feel and see for yourself how you are changing the world slowly: by passing on the learning that you know to the young ones, the hope of our country.

I hadn't really realized I could change the world through my vocation (yes, teaching is a vocation. Not many are called and willing to work hours beyond 5 p.m. without overtime pay!) until one ordinary day, inside the classroom.

I was teaching a 9 year old about rounding off numbers. Well, her eyes really lit up when she finally understood what I was trying to teach. When a person's eyes light up like that, you know you've made a difference! (It's a lot like seeing the eyes of the one you love light up at the sight of you.)

Yes, teaching is a vocation. Not many are called and willing to work hours beyond 5 p.m. without overtime pay!

Sometimes we think we have to seek out shelters, homes or communities in order to change the world. While there is much good and pride in that, there is also no shame in going back to your roots and giving back to the community you actually came from.

Funny, but when I was in school, I couldn't wait to get out. I couldn't wait to graduate and see the so-called real world. Now, I realize, I can wait. Or rather, the real world isn't all it's cracked up to be. Now I'm back in the school I once wanted to get out of. And I'm teaching.

I feel that teaching in what has been my second home for more than a decade is my way of saying thank you to all my teachers. It's my way of saying thanks for the energy and patience they had and the willingness to put up with whatever difficulties I might have given them as a student. And it's also my way of thanking my parents for putting me in such a good school.

Hope remains

I teach because I still believe there is hope to make the Philippines, if not the world, a better place for all of us. The kids whose ideals are still intact in school need to be protected. Their dreams need to be nourished.

I believe that educating young students to make something of themselves through the discipline we instill as teachers will change the world. Maybe not right this very moment, but in the near future. Best of all, through imparting values to our students, teachers do their part in raising citizens who will love themselves, their families and their country.

In teaching, aside from the knowledge you share, you have to be even more willing to share yourself with your students (and co-teachers). You don't need anything more than yourself, chalk and endless love and patience to be a teacher. You don't need anything more than the willingness to share what you know and give yourself to your wards.

The academic part of teaching, the conducting of tests and listening to oral recitations and giving grades is not as important as making sure the kids before you grow up with values and good, kind hearts. I always tell my students that the grades they get don't really matter. What matters is what's in their hearts.

If all Filipinos in the world could be taught early on that there is more to life than money, power, success and fame, I just know that we could make the world a better place. If everyone could just be taught that who you are as a person is not measured by what degree you have attained, who you hang out with or how much money you have in your bank account, I just know that we could change the world. Together.

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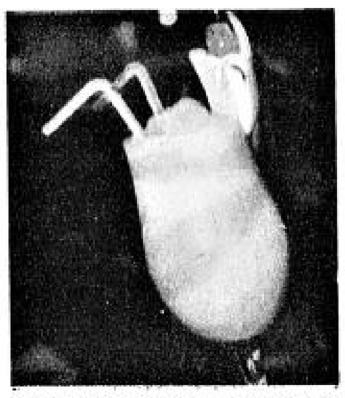

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My domestic jet-set life

Tim Yap

I TOOK the last flight out of Cebu to get to Manila in time for Addict Mobile's Godskitchen party. At 4 a.m. of the same day, I was in the airport once again, this time booked on the first flight to Davao.

Three hours at the NBC Tent was enough to soak in the higher-than-high energy that the BigFish party exuded. Aside from the superb set that the foreign DJ played, our very own DJ TC (aka. **Tuck Cheah**) dished out one of his best sets ever, tempting me to stay over and head to the after-parties and miss my flight out of Manila.

Thank heavens I am a responsible partyphile, and saying "no" to temptation is part of my healthy lifestyle. I got my well-deserved rest much later when I got to Baguio from Davao and stayed at Camp John Hay's The Manor, where I pampered myself with Billy King's gastronomic treats while watching the ETC channel the whole day.

My domestic city hop is part of MTV's "Supahstar" (MTV's newest Supah! show, which aims to search for the next Supah! pop star), of which I am a casting director. The Manila leg of the auditions happens this Saturday at SM Megamall, so if you want your own recording contract, video, plus all the "Supahstar" perks worth over a million pesos, then head over to the Megamall and sing your heart out to me. I'll be waiting.

Super! Market

Call me excited, but I can already feel the Christmas spirit in the air. Why? Well, INQUIRER Super! is throwing the earliest Christmas bazaar this Sunday, Aug. 29, at The Loft in Rockwell.

I have gathered some celebrity friends to give stuff to sell. **Piolo Pascual, Amanda Griffin, KC Concepcion, Geneva Cruz, KC Montero, Sarah Meier, Rissa Samson, Phoemela Baranda,** **JM Rodriguez, Tina Tinio, Tessa Valdes-Prieto**, et al are selling their wares for charity! It's a Super! market of fun and fab buys.

> The Manila auditions for MTV's 'Supahstar' happens this Saturday at SM Megamall, so if you want to be the next Pinoy idol, sing your heart out to me

Other entrepreneurs like Super's **Tals Diaz, Gino de la Paz** and **Giselle Segovia** are part of it too. Tals will sell her self-designed jewelry while Gino will sell his mom's vintage clothing. I will sell all my clothes. Out with the old, in with the new. Besides, my closet is about to explode.

Bazaar princess **April Blanco-de Guzman** of Venture 7 Bazaar (Mom **Fanny Blanco** is queen) acts as Super! consultant for this INQUIRER bazaar. Slots are still available! Join the celebrity bazaar fete by calling 8978808 loc. 259 and look for **Hazel Soriaga** of the INQUIRER marketing department.

From Greece to Greenbelt

So many people I know are now in Athens, Greece to witness the Olympics. **Borgy Manotoc** left today, and so did **Dennis** and Tessa Valdes-Prieto, all to root for the Swatch team. My sister **Cindy Yang** and her hubby **Kenneth** flew out last Saturday.

For those of us who can't go to Greece, might as well just hop over to Greenbelt to experience a different kind of Olympic bliss.

Yup, it's Olympic cocktail hour 24/7 as our favorite Greenbelt bars and restos join Swatch in a sassy and sporty spree. From Absinth to Uva, over 20-plus establishments are concocting a special Swatch Olympic drink (and I'm not talking about Milo) for the whole duration of the Olympics (that's till Sunday, the 29th).

It's a race towards the drinks finish line as all hipsters who order the drink get a free "Sports Time auction money card." This special money card will prove useful during the grand auction, where special-edition Swatches and Adidas items will be on the dock.

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Swatch's Sunday shebang

If you don't know about the event "Sports Time at the Ayala Center," it's a three-month promo set to the tune of the 2004 Athens Olympics. As I've said earlier, it will be capped by a grand auction of Swatch and Adidas collectibles and memorabilia at the Greenbelt 3 lobby.

To prepare yourself for this Sunday shebang, here are some basic auction mechanics to remember:

1. To enter the auction area on Aug. 29, you need at least five money cards. (Then again, the more, the merrier!)

2. Every P500 purchase at Gift Gate, Swatch and Adidas in Ayala Center entitles you to one money card.

3. Each money card is worth 1,000 points.

4. A Swatch watch purchase worth P5,000 will entitle you to 10,000 points. Since it's an auction, the more points you have, the better chances to outbid other people and get all the items up for auction.

And since Tessa will not be in town during the auction, I am saving all the money cards I have for that Ian Thorpe swim cap... Or the whole range of Swatch Olympic watches... Or that limited-edition Adidas shoe or jacket...

Let the Greenbelt bar hop begin!

OODY'S GOODIES. Get a kick out of Muay Thai.

SPRINT E 1999. Race for this concoction at MYLK.

CLUBBER'S FUEL. Taste this Temple temptation.

MADE BY MAX. Max Brenner's Maragnan espresso ecstasy

CONCOCTION PHOTOS BY RAMON TAN MANGLA

[illegible]

***KIKAY* TIME.** Ingrid wears a tank with glitter; Dawn wears a tank with curved edge and string with candy stripes; Celia is in a cropped top with breast pads and sporty hipster; Abby is in a tank with striped strap and low-rise boyleg with striped elastic orange, pink and aqua.

Sorbet-colored slumber party

ONE weekend after school, Penshoppe's Club Pen image model Ingrid Holm, 17, had a slumber party with her gal pals Dawn, Abby and Celia.

"My friends and I are the typical teenage girl group. We love to do all the *kikay* stuff," said Ingrid.

"Slumber parties like these are the best way for us to re-bond after all the stress and pressure from school," she added.

The first order of the evening was to change into comfy tees from Penshoppe. Dawn and Abby donned baby tees with pretty prints and cool quotes, while Ingrid and Celia preferred the tiny tank tops in baby blue, pink and purple.

Soon, the girls were plopped in front of the TV, watching some chick flicks. Afterwards, the girls indulged their *kikay* side. While Celia put Abby's hair in benders, Ingrid laid out her manicure set and fave nail polish, all the while exchanging notes on their fave crushes and the hottest gossip.

By midnight, the girls were exhausted and ready to call it a night. Before jumping into bed, they changed into comfy innerwear, again from Penshoppe, which has a wide selection of cotton and Lycra panties that come in cute sorbet and pastel colors.

"Tonight was a blast, girls! Good night!" said Ingrid before turning off the lights.

Check out Penshoppe's innerwear collection at its boutiques nationwide. Also visit www.penshoppe.com.

Vanity of vanities

Here are the best products for clean-skin treatments and evening makeup

Vanity Fare

Lora Gabol

THIS is the third installment of the Vanity Fare lists. It will be second to the last. Keep those requests and suggestions coming before the grand finale!

Allow me to cut to the chase, skip the appetizer, go straight to the point. This week, I bring you clear-skin treatments and dramatic evening makeup.

Five ways to acne-free skin

1. **Neutrogena Deep Clean.** On days when I feel a bump forming somewhere from beneath my pores, I run to the nearest sink and wash my face with this cleanser. The active ingredients in it seem to scare the zit away! For extra skin-saving, I dab a teeny bit of the cream formula then let it stay for 15 minutes to abort the zit's evil mission.

2. **Clean and Clear Toner.** Yup, I'm talking about the local blue one. This one's a steal! I use it only on extra-oily days when my oil glands decide to work double-time—I find it a tad too strong for twice-a-day use. Not only does it mop up annoying oil slicks and shine, but leaves invisible acne "treatment" in your pores to safeguard them from pimple attacks.

DEEP CLEAN
Neutrogena

NEUTROGENA Deep Clean

3. **Clinique Anti-Blemish Spot Treatment.** While my skin isn't as temperamental as it used to be (read: it would flare up once in a while), I still get what I call a PMZ—pre menstrual zit—every month. For damage control until that decides to leave my hormone pool, I run to Clinique's treatment. It's not harsh at all, doesn't dry my skin, and can be worn under moisturizer and makeup.

4. **SebaMed Anti-Acne Line.** For those who want to win the acne war, this range is your best bet for ammunition. It is dermatologist-recommended and comparatively gentler than the meds prescribed in clinics. The line includes cleansers for body acne, too.

5. **ClearLight at the Belo Medical Group.** Laser technology has invaded the world of advanced skincare, and it's doing a swell job! Who would've thought that light was the answer to acne control? ClearLight is an effective, affordable, and non-invasive (read: no painful pricking!) method to treat stubborn acne.

Five ways to turn the heat up after dark

1. **Shu Uemura Rouge 4 in 194.** Every woman should have the red lipstick in her kit. A tricky color to wear, red has been a hit-or-miss shade until Japanese makeup genius Shu Uemura came up with a scarlet that goes with any skin tone. 194 is an intense red that can either warm up or cool down any complexion, depending on its undertone. Wear with smooth skin, bare eyes and naturally flushed cheeks, and you're ready to really paint the town red.

2. **The Body Shop Shimmer Face and Body Lotion.** This is the easiest way to shine virtually anywhere you wish to—without the sticky goop! Highlight chiseled cheekbones (or create the illusion of a model-worthy bone structure) with an easy swipe of its light formula. Get Beyonce and become like a tanned goddess when you apply it on your arms, shoulders, and legs.

3. **Maybelline Great Lash Mascara.** Still every top makeup artist's favorite way to brighten up the eyes, Maybelline Great Lash Mascara is well on its way to the Makeup Hall of Fame. Smoldering eyes look amazing, with or without other cosmetics on your face. Grab a tube and stash it in your kit for emergency glam-up.

4. **Sue Devitt Eye Intensifier.** Want a dramatic stare without the risk of smudged, raccoon-like eyes? This eye pencil is for you. Being liner-phobic, it was just what I needed: A "chubby" pencil with a soft, easy-to-control consistency. I love practically all the shades (my fave is Kenya, a greenish-brown), but what I like best about this product is that it reduces the possibility of clumsy me poking my eyeballs out!

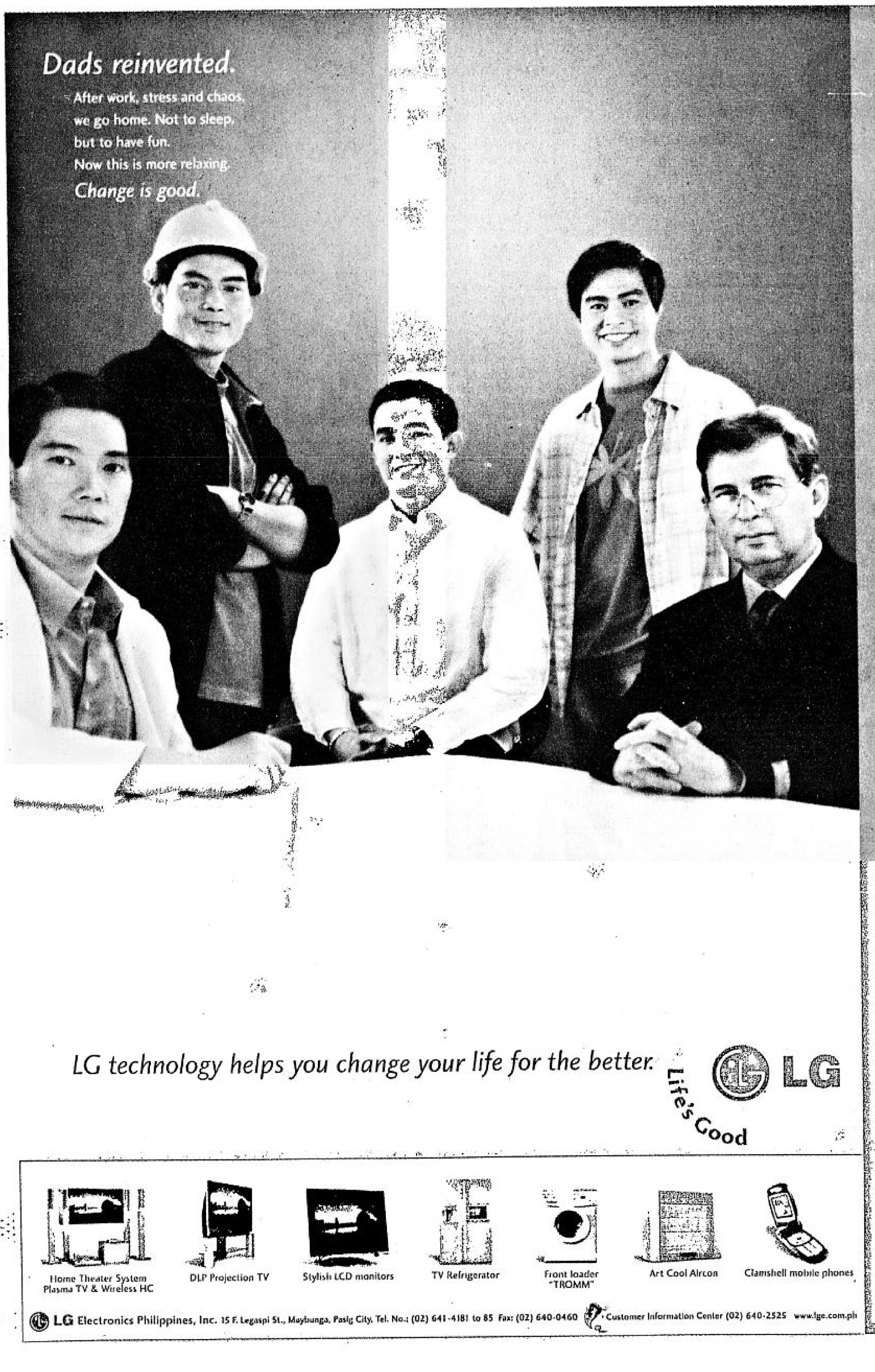
5. **Lancôme Juicy Tubes in Framboise.** If you're not the type who wants to look good without feeling all made up, gloss is your ticket out of drab city. It brightens up your look and lends your face a youthful glow, as opposed to a fully-made up face that can make you look 13 going on 30 if not done well. Framboise is a sheer reddish tint with gold flecks-perfect for a night of dancing.

LANCÔME
JUICY TUBES

LANCÔME Juicy Tubes

Lancome, Clinique and Shu Uemura at Rustan's; Sue Devitt at Beauty Bar; SebaMed at dermatologists' clinics and PCX; Neutrogena, Maybelline and Clean and Clear at department stores and supermarkets; The Body Shop at major malls.

E-mail your suggestions to pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com or lora_gahol@yahoo.com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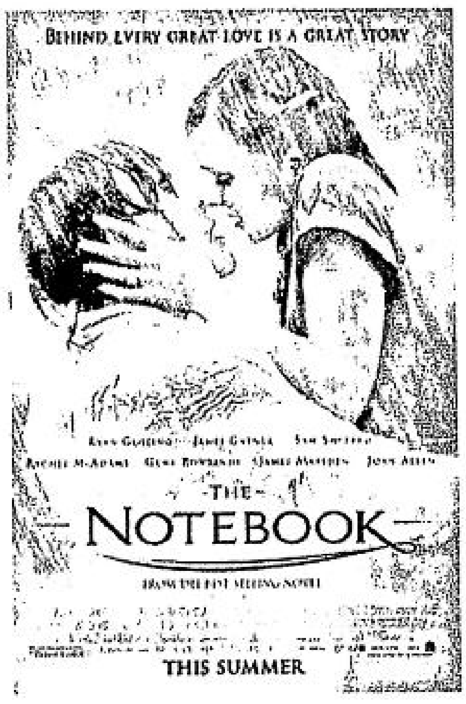
BEHIND EVERY GREAT LOVE IS A GREAT STORY
THE NOTEBOOK
THIS SUMMER

Win tickets to 'The Notebook'

2BU! and Joe D'Mango's Love Notes will be giving away thirty pairs of tickets to the special advance screening of The Notebook at Greenbelt 3's Cinema 2 on Aug. 31. Ten of the thirty lucky winners will also get to bring home mounted posters of the movie.

You can bring your date, your mom or your best friend—it doesn't matter. If you want a free trip to the movies, e-mail us at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph and tell us about your great love story. Don't forget to send us your name, age, school/office and contact numbers.

We'll be calling you soon.

BULLETIN BOARD

Do you have what it takes to be an Akafella?

RED Sandico of the Akafellas will be off to New York soon. Now, the pop-capella group is in search of a new member. If you think you have what it takes to be the newest Akafella, head over to Stageworx on the fifth floor of Shangri-La Mall today from 12 noon to 4 p.m. or on Saturday, Aug. 28, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The auditions will be open to all male vocalists 16-26 years old. Wear a nice outfit and don't forget to bring a minus one of two songs (pop, rock or R&B). Break a leg and hit the high notes.

If you have announcements for 2bU!'s bulletin board, e-mail us at Ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph.